

NEVER
be without
POWER
Call 489-1008

GENERATOR
SOLUTIONS.ca

Tuesday, December 23, 2008

\$1.00 includes GST

Vol 1 Issue 48-

Voice

County



A Mother's Grief Prompts Petition:

**"Acknowledge
the Harsh
Reality of Drug
Abuse in our
Community"**

Stephen Patrick
Editor

Susanne Kay can still hardly bear to speak of that terrible day a year ago November when her youngest son, "my baby", committed suicide in the basement of his Dad's house in West Guilford.

Daniel Edward Kay was just 21 years old when he finished the last of his cocaine, went into the basement, found a utility light, strung himself up, lifted his legs above the floor, and hung himself. It's perhaps beyond anyone's imagination, much less his mothers', to fathom that would drive anyone to commit such an act. "He was a good kid, he really was," Susanne says, "he loved to work, he was a good worker, and he wanted more than anything to get off the drugs, to get his life back."

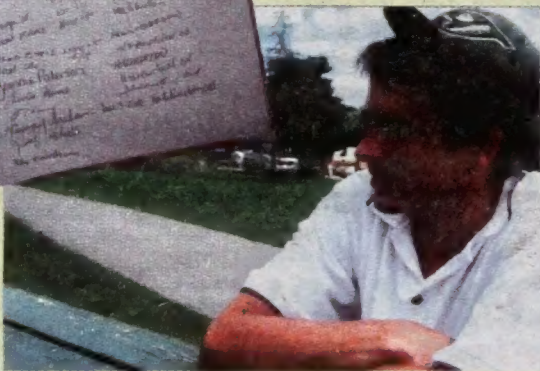
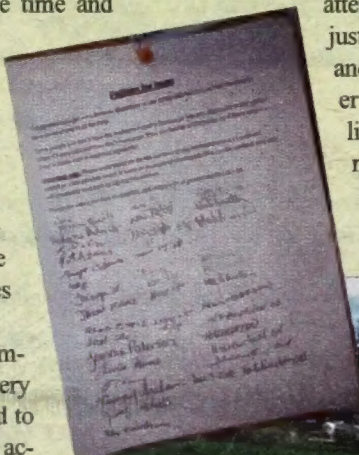
"But somehow, in this community, there was in the end no one to help him, no agency that could give him the time and

was in hospital, but him stay any longer, in a program in another to a drug addict is a place you can get any and with no transportation that's a real problem. Why can't there be some treatment facilities here in Haliburton?"

Sue Kay's grief is compounded by the guilt every parent who's lost a child to addiction, or to criminal activity, or even so-called natural causes like meningitis, must feel. She understands the culture of blame, as well, as a Haliburton native who grew up in a proud, but very poor family. "It was no different for Danny than it was for me - so little for kids to do, at least for kids with no money." Dan Kay never attended school past Grade Eight: he was out on the street, doing odd jobs, finding out that he loved to work, that he could be successful in that world, that he could actually do things. He also found out that drugs were easy to get, and started with marijuana and booze at 14 or 15, and graduated soon after to cocaine. He did see a psychologist when he was still struggling with school, who thought the boy might be bi-polar, and that he certainly had an attention deficit disorder. He suffered from depression, and the usual adolescent confusion - he may well have suspected that he was on a very dangerous road, and he certainly exhibited early signs of wanting to straighten himself out.

But by the time he was 17 the drugs had him firmly in their grasp. "Oxycontin began to be available in town then, the 'Hillbilly's Heroin, as it's called," says Sue. "Dan began to use Percocet, the junior

Danny Kay cont'd... pg. 10...



Christmas - a Time for the Birds

Annual Count a Success Once More

Stephen Patrick
Editor

Haliburton's Annual Christmas Bird Count faced some unusual challenges this year - notably the huge amounts of snow, and the early skin of ice on many of the smaller lakes. "But we still managed to find a lot of waterfowl on the open waters, the rivers and so on. Some years the ice is more of a factor," says the Bird Count's long-time Co-ordinator Dennis Barry. "And this year we counted a Red-Throated Loon, which is quite unusual."

"It's not unusual to have a few loon stragglers still here in early December, but we don't often see a Red-Throated." Dennis Barry has been a birder most of his life, and has been a prominent member of the Haliburton Bird Count for the last 20 years, along with his colleagues and friends Ed Poropat and Thom Lambert. "We've been very lucky to have a devoted group of birders in Haliburton - the count is done under the auspices of the National Audubon Society in the U.S., and here we report our findings

Birds cont'd... pg. 8...

Officers Brave the Cold for a Good Cause



Const. Mark McMaster and Auxiliary Sgt. Dick Schell accept a donation from local resident Evelyn Stevenson.

Generous donations of food were handed over to OPP officers from the Haliburton Highlands detachment last week during the annual "Fill a Cruiser with Food Campaign".

On Wednesday, Dec. 17 - Friday, Dec. 19, officers with a large SUV cruiser collected donations at the Wilberforce Foodland, Todd's Independent Grocer and the Minden Valu-Mart.

Once finished, the officers dropped off donations to the Word of Life Outreach Centre in Wilberforce, the 4C's food bank in Haliburton and the Minden food bank.

**Singing the Joys of the
Season...**

pg. 42

**Santa is a Hit at
Stuart Baker...**

pg. 25

**Chosen As One of a
Kind Initiative ...**

pg. 30

**Inside
This
Issue**

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

COUNTRY PICKINS

DOWNTOWN HALIBURTON 457-2726

WOOLRICH PARKHURST COLUMBIA POINT ZERO

BOXING DAY

Fri. Dec. 26th
11am-4pm ONLY

1 DAY ONLY
50% - 60% OFF

ALL WINTER CLOTHING

ONE DAY
50-60% OFF!

WOOLRICH PARKHURST COLUMBIA POINT ZERO

A present for the whole family!

Consider a New Hot Tub for Christmas!

The PUMP SHOP

"YOUR WATER PUMP SPECIALISTS"

457-2638 1-888-312-7867

Hwy 118 & Maple Ave. Haliburton

www.royallepagelakesofhaliburton.ca

Royal LePage

LAKES of HALIBURTON

Brokerage
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Four Locations To Serve You

HALIBURTON

Bus: (705) 457-2414 (800) 457-2414

MINDEN

Bus: (705) 286-1234 (877) 286-3334

KENNISIS / REDSTONE

Bus: (705) 754-1932

CARNARVON

Bus: (705) 489-1235

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

It's a special time of year
A family time and one to share
With those we hold most dear
Christmas brings us closer
And like this wish it brings
Some very precious memories
And life's most happy things.

Merry Christmas

from

Gloria, Cindy and Avery

Gloria Carnochan or Cindy Muenzel * 754-1932

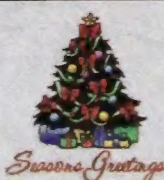
LITTLE KENNISIS LAKE - \$424,900



Prime well treed private waterfront lot on Little Kennis Lake with clean smooth rock and sand shoreline, deep clean water, expansive south 'sunshine' exposure, superb year round access and parking for 8 cars. Neat and clean 4 season cottage features cathedral ceilings, stunning floor to ceiling granite fireplace, 3 bedrooms, nice decking & docking.

Lorri Roberts * 457-2414 ext 43

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Wishing
Everyone A
Happy Holiday
Season and A
Prosperous
New Year!

Lindsay Elder ** 286-1234

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year -
May 2009 bring you
and your family, good
health and happiness
throughout the year.

Patti & Hal Johnson ** 236-1234 ex 238

RURAL RESIDENTIAL - \$169,900



Renovated 2+ bedroom home located on over 5 acres with total privacy. Above ground pool w/ wrap around decking. Recent renos - maple kitchen, ceramic tile, bathroom fixtures, main floor laundry, hardwood maple flooring, decking, airtight pellet stove and light fixtures. Full walkout basement with extra bedroom, storage and workshop.

Debbie Cumber* 457-2414 ext 24

IRONDALE RIVER - \$25,000



Nice building lot located on the Irondale River. Year round municipal access, subject to a Right Of Way. Nicely treed, good building site.

Susan Johnson * 286-1234

Vacant Property

NORTH SHORE VACANT LOT - \$34,900

Large 6.28 acre building lot with 460 feet of frontage on municipally year round maintained North Shore Road - well treed for privacy and large enough to choose from several possible level building locations - public access to three lake Maple Lake chain just minutes away

NORTH SHORE VACANT LOT - \$15,900

Vacant 2.91 acre building lot on beautiful North Shore Road. Well treed for privacy. Close proximity to public access to access the three lake, Maple Lake Chain. This lot is in a great location of fine homes within 15km to Haliburton. Build your dream home or cottage close to water without lakefront prices!!

Chris & Michelle Smolarz * 457-2414

South Lake Road - \$249,000



Large 5 bedroom home. Features include a new kitchen, new FAO furnace, 3 bathrooms, large principal rooms, 2 car attached garage, comfortable rec room with airtight woodstove. The lot is level and cleared around the house, the balance is healthy forest. There is also deeded access to Canning Lake.

David Lee * 286-1234
www.haliburtonhighlands-realestate.ca

HALLS LAKE - \$429,000



Beautiful 3+1 BR waterfront home/cottage on Halls Lake. Open concept living makes it great for entertaining. Huge master bedroom, main floor laundry, walk-out basement. Also has 2 BR bunkie for guests. One of the Vendors is a Registered Real Estate Salesperson.

Tom Gardner* 286-1234

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Wishing you and
your family
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and may the
NEW YEAR bring
good health and
prosperity to all!

Al Mayo * 286-1234

ANSON ST. MINDEN - \$149,000



Neat and tidy 3 bedroom bungalow, deck at side, level lot on a quiet residential street with access to Gull River nearby, providing miles of boating. Walk to shopping and down town. Private setting at back of lot. A must see!! Value Plus!!

Ed Gibbons * 286-1234

CRYSTAL LAKE - \$149,000



Renovate three bedroom cottage with deeded access to Crystal Lake. Features: drilled well, heated line, fully winterized, full basement, small barn for storage, dock space available. Great beach. Great for ATV or snowmobile. Large 2 acre lot.

Peter Franzen* 286-1234

A Special Service at Zion United Church

Christmas Choir Cantata in "More Than a Manger"



Mark Arike

Staff Reporter

Despite a heavy, early morning snowfall, members of the Zion United Church in Carnarvon still made their way to the church for a service featuring the Christmas Choir Cantata this past Sunday.

Choir members, under the direction of Melissa Stephens, sang various songs including More Than a Manger, Cradle Song and Signs of Seeker.

"This is a really dedicated choir," said Stephens after the service.

The group puts on performances 12 months of the year and they gather weekly to practice for shows. ■

ROYAL LePAGE

LAKES of HALIBURTON

BROKERAGE

457-2414



Holiday Greetings

For your trust in our company, your faith in our
expertise, and for the relationship we enjoy with you,

we thank you and sincerely wish you

A world of peace and a

Happy & prosperous New Year!

Trillium Group - Royal LePage Lakes of Haliburton

Anthony vanLieshout, Broker of Record, CRA

Chris James, Sales Rep.

Marcia Prenger, Sales Rep.

Lorri Roberts, Sales Rep.

Cathy Bain, Sales Rep.

Trillium Team
TOP 5% OF REALTORS IN CANADA*



Royal LePage

LAKES of HALIBURTON

Brokerage

INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

From all of us at
Royal LePage
we wish you a very
Merry Christmas
and a happy New Year
and thank you for
your business
in the past year.



* Sales Representative ** Broker *** Broker of Record

DRIVER CHARGED

(Haliburton, ON.) – Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment have charged a driver as a result of a vehicle stop near the Village of Dorset on December 20th, 2008 shortly before 11:00pm.

The officer had stopped the vehicle on Muskoka Rd #117 and had conversation with the driver. The driver was asked to step outside the vehicle while the officer continued his investigation. A short time later the officer attempted to arrest the driver. The driver broke free from the officer and attempted to flee in his vehicle. The officer then attempted to turn the vehicle off while the driver was attempting to push the officer out of the vehicle which had now been set in motion.

The officer was eventually successful in disabling the vehicle at which time the driver fled the scene on foot. Other officers were called to the scene. The driver then proceeded to the bridge in the Village of Dorset where he was spoken to once again by the officers. At this point the driver jumped off the bridge and into the frigid waters. The driver then swam to the shore where he finally complied with the officers and was taken into custody.

The driver was then taken to an ambulance that had been called to the scene. The driver was then transported to the Huntsville Hospital suffering from hypothermia.

A 43 year old Toronto man has been charged with Possession of Marijuana and Assault with Intent to Resist Arrest. At press time the man's name was not released.

Weather & Lotto

THURSDAY

Partly cloudy and pleasant
▲ -7° ▼ -12°

FRIDAY

Cloudy, slight chance of rain/snow shower
▲ -1° ▼ -7°

SATURDAY

Mild and windy with rain likely
▲ 1° ▼ -3°

SUNDAY

Windy and cooler with morning snow showers
▲ 3° ▼ 2°

MONDAY

Partly sunny and pleasant
▲ -1° ▼ -2°

TUESDAY

Cloudy and colder with snow showers
▲ 0° ▼ -2°

WEDNESDAY

Mostly cloudy and breezy in the afternoon
▲ -2° ▼ -5°

AROUND THE REGION: Daytime temperatures will not be very cold across the region through the holiday week. Thursday will be very nice for this time of the year as skies will be partly cloudy with highs near 1 below. Milder air will arrive for Friday and Saturday with a slight chance of rain or wet snow showers on Friday and mostly rain on Saturday. Highs will be in the single digits above zero.

Your Unofficial Lotto Numbers



Dec 20, 2008

04 07 08 10 47 48

Bonus Number 06

Encore 2680923



Dec 19, 2008

02 16 17 21 23 36 45

Bonus Number 22

Encore 2391014

TROPICAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Low/Otk	Friday Hi/Low/Otk	Saturday Hi/Low/Otk	City	Today Hi/Low/Otk	Friday Hi/Low/Otk	Saturday Hi/Low/Otk
Acapulco	31/20/su	31/21/su	32/21/su	Montego Bay	29/24/pc	30/24/su	29/24/dz
Antigua	31/25/pc	29/24/sh	29/24/su	Nassau	27/21/pc	27/24/su	27/24/su
Barbados	31/25/pc	30/26/su	29/26/dz	Port au Prince	29/23/pc	29/24/dz	29/23/dz
Bermuda	24/18/pc	25/19/su	26/21/su	Puerto Vallarta	27/17/pc	26/14/su	27/14/cl
Cancun	31/21/ts	29/23/su	29/23/su	St Thomas	31/24/pc	29/26/su	29/25/su
Curacao	31/26/pc	29/23/ts	29/23/sh	St. Maarten	30/24/ts	29/26/dz	29/26/su
Freeport	25/21/pc	28/24/su	28/23/su	San Jose, CR	29/18/ts	29/18/pc	28/18/pc
Georgetown	30/24/ts	29/23/ra	29/22/ra	San Juan	30/24/pc	29/26/su	29/26/su
Havana	29/22/su	27/21/su	28/21/su	San Salvador	31/21/pc	31/22/su	31/22/pc
Key West	27/21/pc	26/21/pc	26/21/pc	Santo Domingo	29/23/ts	31/24/su	31/24/pc
Kingston	29/24/pc	31/27/su	31/26/dz	Trinidad	31/26/pc	32/26/ts	32/27/su

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Low/Otk	Friday Hi/Low/Otk	Saturday Hi/Low/Otk	Sunday Hi/Low/Otk	Monday Hi/Low/Otk	Tuesday Hi/Low/Otk	Wednesday Hi/Low/Otk
Bancroft	-1/-7/pc	1/-3/cl	3/1/ra	-1/-2/cl	0/-2/cl	-2/-5/sn	-1/-5/cl
Barrie	-1/-7/pc	2/-3/cl	4/2/ra	0/-2/cl	1/-2/cl	-2/-4/sn	0/-4/cl
Dorset	-2/-7/pc	1/-3/cl	3/1/ra	-1/-2/cl	-1/-2/cl	-2/-6/sn	-1/-5/cl
Haliburton	-1/-7/pc	1/-3/cl	3/2/ra	-1/-2/cl	0/-2/cl	-2/-5/sn	-1/-5/cl
Huntsville	-2/-8/pc	1/-3/cl	3/1/ra	-1/-2/cl	-1/-2/cl	-2/-6/sn	-1/-5/cl
Kingston	0/-7/pc	2/-3/cl	4/2/ra	1/-1/cl	1/-2/cl	-1/-4/sn	0/-4/cl
Lindsay	-1/-7/pc	2/-3/cl	4/2/ra	0/-2/cl	1/-2/cl	-2/-4/sn	0/-4/cl
Minden	-1/-7/pc	1/-3/cl	3/2/ra	-1/-2/cl	0/-2/cl	-2/-5/sn	-1/-5/cl
Oshawa	0/-7/pc	3/-3/cl	4/2/ra	1/-1/cl	1/-2/cl	-1/-4/sn	1/-4/cl
Ottawa	-3/-9/su	-2/-10/cl	3/-1/mx	-1/-3/mx	-1/-3/sn	-2/-7/sn	0/-6/cl
Toronto	1/-6/pc	3/-3/cl	5/2/ra	1/-1/cl	2/-1/cl	0/-4/sn	1/-4/cl

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Low/Otk	Friday Hi/Low/Otk	Saturday Hi/Low/Otk	Sunday Hi/Low/Otk	Monday Hi/Low/Otk	Tuesday Hi/Low/Otk	Wednesday Hi/Low/Otk
Calgary	-12/-15/su	-8/-28/pc	-6/-26/cl	-3/-11/cl	-7/-15/sf	-13/-23/sn	-15/-23/sf
Edmonton	-16/-28/cl	-18/-22/sf	-12/-23/cl	-6/-14/sn	-9/-18/cl	-18/-29/sn	-19/-32/sf
Fredericton	-6/-12/su	-2/-13/sf	3/-8/ra	-1/-5/mx	-1/-6/cl	-2/-8/cl	-1/-7/sn
Halifax	2/-4/pc	0/-2/su	8/-1/ra	11/8/dz	9/2/pc	4/-2/cl	4/-1/mx
Montreal	-4/-11/su	-2/-9/sf	1/-3/ra	-2/-3/mx	-1/-2/sn	-1/-8/sn	0/-7/cl
Regina	-13/-22/cl	-16/-18/cl	-13/-21/sf	-6/-16/sf	-8/-19/sf	-15/-26/sn	-16/-26/cl
St. John's	3/-4/mx	-3/-3/cl	-2/-4/su	8/-2/ra	4/-2/cl	3/-4/cl	1/-4/sn
Saskatoon	-16/-26/cl	-19/-23/cl	-14/-26/pc	-11/-17/cl	-13/-21/sf	-19/-27/sn	-21/-29/cl
Vancouver	1/-5/sf	4/-3/sh	6/1/mx	7/3/sn	6/-2/mx	4/-3/mx	4/-2/mx
Whitehorse	-20/-26/cl	-27/-34/su	-23/-30/sf	-27/-37/sf	-26/-37/sn	-27/-39/sn	-26/-37/sf
Winnipeg	-7/-15/sf	-7/-11/sf	-17/-19/cl	-6/-21/sf	-15/-22/sn	-19/-24/cl	-19/-26/sn

AREA ALMANAC

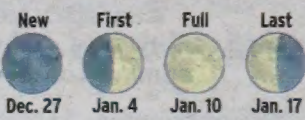
Last seven days	High	Low	Prec.
Monday 12/22	NA	NA	NA
Sunday 12/21	-7°C	-18°C	0.0 mm
Saturday 12/20	-12°C	-22°C	0.0 mm
Friday 12/19	-7°C	-17°C	0.0 mm
Thursday 12/18	-4°C	-7°C	0.0 mm
Wednesday 12/17	-6°C	-9°C	0.0 mm
Tuesday 12/16	-6°C	-9°C	0.0 mm

Readings from Haliburton/Stanhope Airport
www.stanhopeairport.com

Forecasts, graphs and data
provided by Weather Central,
Inc., Madison, Wis. © 2008

SUN & MOON

	Sunrise/set	Moonrise/set
Thu. 7:51 a.m./4:37 p.m.	5:37 a.m./2:08 p.m.	
Fri. 7:51 a.m./4:38 p.m.	6:37 a.m./2:51 p.m.	
Sat. 7:52 a.m./4:38 p.m.	7:31 a.m./3:42 p.m.	
Sun. 7:52 a.m./4:39 p.m.	8:16 a.m./4:40 p.m.	
Mon. 7:52 a.m./4:40 p.m.	8:53 a.m./5:43 p.m.	
Tues. 7:52 a.m./4:41 p.m.	9:23 a.m./6:48 p.m.	
Wed. 7:52 a.m./4:42 p.m.	9:48 a.m./7:54 p.m.	



Have a Safe Holiday

The Choice Is Yours...



This Holiday Season...

Call Hyland Taxi - 457-1777

Expressing Our Best

Have
A Merry
Christmas!



Northern Expressions

Furniture, Home Decor & So Much More!

33 Hops Drive, Haliburton. (In the Beer Store Plaza)

Holiday Hours:

Dec. 22, 23, 24 OPEN 10am-5pm

CLOSED Christmas Day - CLOSED Boxing Day

OPEN Dec. 27, 29, 30, 31 10am-5pm

CLOSED January 1st, 2009

457-8957

Gift Certificates Available

County Voice



"Just wait 'till my girlfriends see the size of the rock I got for Christmas."

Letter of the Week

Dear Editor:

"As Mr. Turner points out, Minden is no longer a destination, but a place to drive past."

In your December 18 Letters to the Editor section, it was most refreshing to read a local businessman's observations regarding the current state of Minden area snowmobiling. It has been a major complaint of snowmobilers for some time.

Peppermill owner Greg Turner, as well as just about every other business in the Minden/Carnarvon area has been directly impacted due to snowmobile trail closures over the last few years. Ask any snowmobiler that has participated in the sport in this area for longer than a decade, and they will fondly reminisce about Minden when it was considered the 'hub' of snowmobiling in this region. Sledgers would come from far and wide to stay in our hotels, line up for breakfast lunch and dinner at local restaurants, wait patiently for their turn to fuel up at gas stations, open their wallets for repairs and accessories at snowmobile dealers, and shop at nearby grocery and convenience stores.

I can assure you that this is no longer the case. As Mr. Turner points out, Minden is no longer a destination, but a place to drive past.

One could offer a list of reasons why this situation came about, but at this point it would serve little purpose.

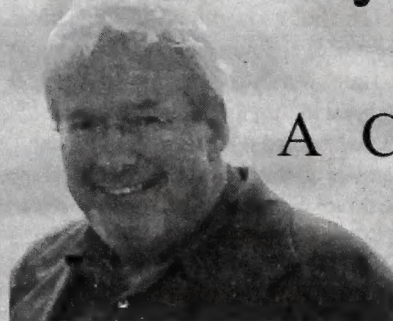
All that is required is a revamped HCSA # 4 trail that does not utilize County roads or lakes, and connects Minden with Carnarvon. The solution may be as simple as using sections of the Hwy 35 road allowance.

If a small group of qualified and informed decision-makers could sit down and formulate a plan to make this happen, I believe that it would only have a positive impact on this Community.

Mike Donnelly
Mountain Lake ■

EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

by Stephen Patrick



A Community Christmas Season

For the past six weeks we've covered, as best we can, the simply amazing number of community, church, and school Christmas activities that have taken place throughout the County. For anyone who might have thought that traditional Christmas observances were on the wane, or that the western European Judeo-Christian tradition might somehow be in jeopardy, should spend a few days in Haliburton County in December. For those in our community that might have other views on the creation of the world, or come from another tradition, or are interested in a radical re-interpretation of the Christmas, Hanukkah, Solstice blast, you might just want to head for the hills for a few weeks and hide under the snow.

This is not, however, to say that these community events have been unpleasantly exclusionary. The spirit of neighbourliness, of mutual reliance, of reaching out to the needy, casts a very large net here in Haliburton County that regularly trumps a narrow take on anyone else's humanity, belief system, culture or dignity. For example, as we reported last week, the staff, students and parents at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden have for a number of years foregone the traditional concert of Christmas Carolling in favour of what one teacher and organizer described as a "more inclusive evening that reflects all members of our diverse community and as well helps to provide the less fortunate with some much needed food and toys for Christmas." And let's face it: the religious and cultural makeup of our community is inevitably going to change with each passing year. We live only a few hundred kilometres north of one of the most diverse cities in the world, which, although not without its tensions, is still a world-class model of social civility.

The last few decades has seen the greatest co-mingling of races and cultures in the history of the world. The "English Canada" I was born into is a distant memory, as faded as a Victorian postcard, and just about as musty. What's exciting is that it seems we've managed to retain much of the best of that culture's traditions: civility, tolerance, loyalty, to name just a few. As a culture we're still susceptible to the paranoid ramblings of a few, from the seductive upper middle class Islamophobic takes of pop intellectuals like Mark Steyn, for example, to the more subtle, and perhaps more dangerous, demonization of the 'other' in our courts and legal system. And yet we're light years away from the dominate sentiments of the 1950s, when we were urged to learn how to speak Chinese "so you can talk to them when they come."

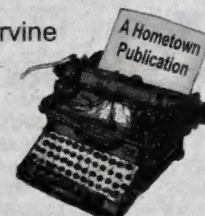
Although the inevitable stresses and strains of this enormous demographic and ethnic shift will at some point impact this community, at least we know we have a rock-hard base of tolerance and goodwill to build on. And these Holiday celebrations are in their own way evidence of this.

Christmas is a time of hope: it's also a time when many pay more attention to those in some kind of real need. On page one of this issue we detail the terrible pain of one mother's failed struggle to protect her son from the demons of drug addiction and the cruel grasp of the dealers. Sue Kay is reaching out to all of us to find a way to get help to those among us who are most vulnerable to these abuses: the young, the poor, and the disaffected. These voices too deserve to be heard, and their pain acknowledged, particularly at this time of year. In that spirit all of us at the Voice extend our warmest greetings and best wishes to our readers, and in particular to all those in our community who struggle with loss and pain. ■

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The County Voice Inc.

Editorial & Production Manager: Joanne Irvine
Advertising Manager: Brett Irvine
Managing Editor: Stephen Patrick
Sports Editor: Terrance Gavan
Prepress & Production: Shawn Welsh
Layout & Graphic Design: Buffy Wilson
Sales Representative: Carrie Feir
Photographer: Lyn Winans
Reporters: Mark Arike, Liz Danielsen
Office Administrator: Charlene English



Published by: Brett & Joanne Irvine

Box 930 Haliburton Ontario K0M 1S0
187 Highland Street - Unit 11 & 12
Lower Level of Stedman's Mall

100% Locally Owned
& Operated

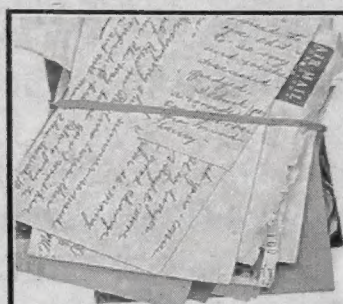
705 457-5001
Fax: 457-5004

letters@countyvoice.ca class@countyvoice.ca
editor@countyvoice.ca news@countyvoice.ca ads@countyvoice.ca
admin@countyvoice.ca sports@countyvoice.ca

Proud members of the Ontario
Community Newspaper Association



The County Voice is an independently and locally owned weekly newspaper. The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the owners, staff or advertisers. The publisher reserves the right to classify or refuse any advertisement. Credit for advertisement limited to space price error occupies. All editorial and advertising content is copyrighted and can only be reproduced by permission of the County Voice publishers.



**Letters
to the
Editor
are always
welcome**

Email:
letters@countyvoice.ca
Mail:
Letter to Editor
Box 930, Haliburton, On. K0M 1S0
Fax:
705-457-5004
In Person:
187 Highland St. Haliburton
Lower level of Stedman's Mall

More Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

"Let the town expand from the centre out."

Yes We Can – is a slogan we've heard a lot of over the last year. Three little words that prove with enough thought, planning and dedication mountains can be moved. Haliburton's future lies in the hands of tourists and resident senior citizens. The environment is its attraction. So instead of trying to attract industry to help with the tax burden why not build on the obvious. Build a town that caters to the population, a town where seniors have affordable housing and easy access to necessities, while still attracting seasonal tourists. Let the town expand from the centre out.

To do this a town needs water, sewers, easy accessibility and viable sources of income. How can it be done? Einstein said "If a problem is not absurd, it's not worth trying to find a solution."

Two or three years ago a small group of local people concerned with affordable housing came up with some ideas. One of which was to build a second story of one and two bedroom apartments or condominiums over the Legion, the LCBO, the Community Living building, and the Post Office. We believe the Legion is capable of supporting a second story; however the LCBO and

Post Office may not be.

Through U-LINKS, a contact was made with the University of Toronto. It became a project for a first year design class. This project resulted in an 86% term mark for the students.

There is room for a least 40 to 50 one and two bedroom units, with access to four streets. Materials would be environmentally friendly and labour and materials, for the most part, would be local. The units over the Legion and Community Living would help subsidize these important sites.

Water is a commodity more important than oil. If a reservoir and water treatment plant are built on the hill behind the arena, and water lines run through the community, it would supply clean water and water pressure to services all the town and the two condo projects – Watercolours and St. Georges, plus other projects well into the future. Clean glass bottled water could be sold directly or through stores to the cottagers. The sewage plant, through sewage and waste materials from the logging industry, could supply biogas to service all the township vehicles, other industry and even residences. This could include police, ambulance and school bus needs.

The top of the hill could be a home base for solar panels, wind turbines and water energy from some of the over 40 dams in Haliburton county, which can be stored in Canadian made battery storage systems.

Sure there are a lot of problems – parking and money to mention a few. That's why I'm asking you "WHY CAN'T WE?" Canada is a G8 nation and as such we should be progressive not digressive!

This can also include what every tourist town should have – a clean easy access to public washroom.

Experience does reduce frustration and waste, but experience without imagination can result in stagnation.

During a time of financial crisis governments have always put money in infrastructure and programs that create jobs and stimulate the economy. This is the time for federal, provincial and municipal governments to unite and build for the future.

Older people and newborns have common interests. They need space, a secure warm comfortable environment, clothing and healthy food. Adding some private time, a friendly smile and a few little challenges to exercise the mind and body.

I look forward to the community's thoughtful response.

Dear Editor:

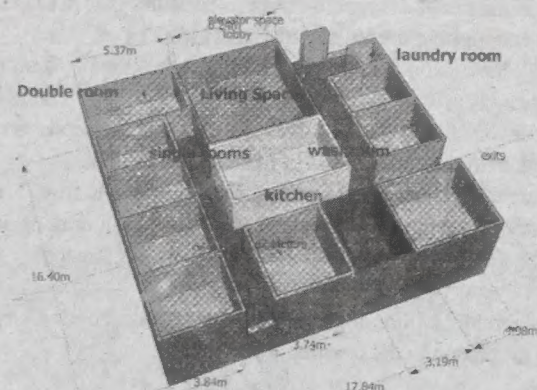
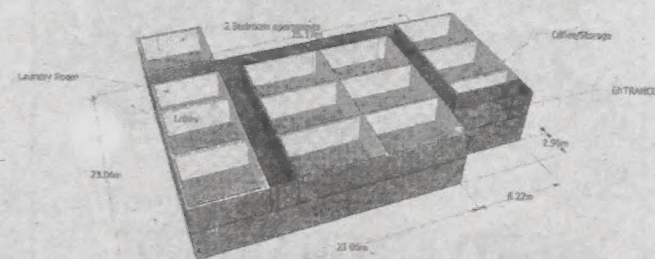
"Many thanks and wishing you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year."

I would like to sincerely thank you folks at the Voice for your great coverage of the Christmas concert. We thought the concert went very well, and we all feel extremely gratified and validated when we see such a positive article in your paper describing our efforts.

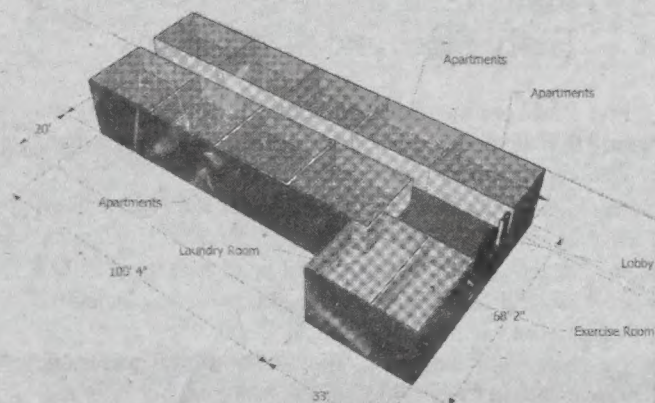
Again, many thanks, and wishing you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Hugh Taylor, Highlands Wind Symphony ■

Fred Phipps
Harburn Road ■



The Legion A - Design



House For Rent



2 bedroom
home in
Eagle Lake
Village.

Neat & Clean
Nice setting

\$750 per month plus utilities

Call Anthony @ 457-3414

TAXI

We'll Be There For You!

**CORDUROY
TAXI 457-2224**

**Serving Haliburton Region
Be Safe This Holiday Season!**

Check out these rates...

Haliburton - Lindsay \$27.50 twice daily per schedule.
www.corduroytaxi.kooltool.ca

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



**From CHIEF WAN
of West Guilford**

**Season's
Greetings**

Laurie and her staff would like to wish you all
the Best of the Holiday Season.

Laurie Scott M.P.P.

HALIBURTON • KAWARTHA LAKES • BROCK



Constituency Office:
14 Lindsay St. N., Lindsay, ON K9V 1T4

Tel. (705) 324-6654 • 1-800-424-2490
Fax (705) 324-6938

E-mail: laurie.scott@pc.ola.org
Website: www.lauriescottmpp.com



Police Reports

DRIVER CHARGED

(Haliburton, ON.) – Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment have charged a driver as a result of an R.I.D.E. program last night in the Village of Haliburton.

The officers stopped the vehicle shortly before 10:30pm at the intersection of County Rd #21 and County Rd #1. The officers had conversation with the driver who was subsequently arrested and taken to the Haliburton Highlands Detachment.

Charged with Impaired Driving, Driving Over 80mgs, Possession of Marijuana and Possession of a Schedule II drug (marijuana) for the Purpose of Trafficking is Michael Christopher Gunning 34 years of Dysart et al.

Mr. Gunning will be appearing in Minden Court on January 7th, 2009 in relation to the charges. ■

Hunting Baited Waterfowl Leads to Hefty Fines and Suspensions

Five Buckhorn men have been fined a total of \$8000 and banned from hunting waterfowl for a year after being convicted of shooting ducks at a baited marsh.

Terry Lamshead, 47, John Clark, 56, Paul Clark, 60, Matthew Haylor, 25, and Miles Middleton, 20, pleaded guilty to hunting with 400 metres of a baited area and were each fined \$1000. Lamshead and John Clark also pleaded guilty to placing the bait and were each fined an additional \$1500.

The court heard that in the fall of 2008, Ministry of Natural Resources conservation officers were working with Environment Canada's wildlife officers to monitor hunters and enforce the Migratory birds Hunting Regulations. On September 23rd, 2008, conservation officers found the men hunting in a marshy area in Harvey Township that was baited with corn.

Placing bait to hunt migratory game birds is illegal because it attracts large numbers of birds and gives the hunter an unfair advantage.

Justice of the Peace Jason Mariasine heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Peterborough, on December 11th, 2008.

To report a natural resources violation, call 1 877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time or contact your local District office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). ■

**Say
you
saw it
in the
Voice**

**4 C's &
LILY ANN**

**Will not be receiving items
for the store starting Monday
December 15th through to
January 2009 due to
needing the space to fulfill
the needs for the Christmas
Programme.**

More Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

"A pair of steel toed boots can pack quite a wallop: For now I'll stick with cream pies."

A number of mainstream commentators have asserted that Muntazer al-Zaidi exceeded his professional role by hurling a "farewell kiss" at the American president, whom he called a "dog." Certainly Al-Zaidi departed from official protocol, which tends to reduce even the most astute reporter to the level of a silent stenographer.

It can be argued that far more information came to light from this one short message inscribed on leather, than any number of words could convey on paper. For one thing, the incident revealed just how thin is the partition between decorum and violence. Al-Zaidi was barely dragged from the press room before the guards began smashing him up.

Perhaps, too, the rules change when as a journalist you come face-to-face with a mass murderer, one who has savaged your nation and who, as an habitual liar, is in any case untrustworthy as a source of information.

Why even bother attending such functions if you know beforehand you will be fed a pack of lies? Iraqi journalists surely must wonder if their presence at these stage-managed events serves mainly to legitimize a crime against humanity.

Connected with this issue is the astonishing number of "unembedded" journalists who have been killed in Iraq. In that ravaged world, to seek the truth outside authorized channels is immediately to put your life at risk. From our safe vantage in Canada, we can only marvel at the courage of those who find a way, even if just for a fleeting moment, to expose the criminals who blight our world.

A pair of steel-toed boots can pack quite a wallop. For now, I'll stick with cream pies.

Douglas Smith Minden ■

**Merry Christmas
and All The Best in 2009**

*Haliburton
Hairdressing*

457-2852
6 Cedar Ave. Haliburton

What's Up Doc

by Carol Sanio, D.V.M.

WHAT YOUR DOG TOLD ME HE WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS:

When I go dog toy shopping, I am always amazed at the number of toys in the stores. Back in the day, there were 2 or 3 companies that made dog toys, now you can buy designer toys, clothes and gear at just about any pet store. What exactly is it your dog wants? I am glad you asked.

Well if you have very active running dog like I do, you would think a fetch toy would be perfect. My dog does not fetch. I fetch. At least I would have to if I threw a Frisbee or wubba for him since he does not see the point in running after things I throw. I lose all toys in the snow. Running dogs need running gear. Retriever dogs need the fetching toys. The most fun running gear for those who like to cross country ski is the ski touring belt and harness. Active dogs love this and they learn very quickly how to pull and turn. Then you can add on a kick sled, a few more dogs and it is life in the fast lane.

Dog gear and toys can be a great Christmas gift. Dogs themselves do not make great gifts. The giver may want the dog but not the receiver. Buying a dog is a huge responsibility that needs to be pondered and calculated to be sure you can afford the time and money it takes to own a pet. Puppies take up lots and lots of time. They do not just grow up into socialized loyal companions that patiently sit by your side until you decide to go out and throw the Frisbee, without any effort. It takes a lot of work to raise a dog properly. Some have a romantic view of pet ownership that is dashed when you find you own an exuberant "Marley"-type dog.

Marketers use puppies and kittens as the "perfect Christmas gift" with an adorable puppy peeking out from under the tree wearing a red bow or jumping out of a gift wrapped box to the delighted squeals of children rushing to hug and get kisses from them. Puppies and kittens are so innocent and full of unconditional love, they seem like a perfect way to say "I love you" but they grow up, need obedience training, make mistakes, cost money, get sick and are often frightened during the Christmas morning mayhem. Newly weaned pups need a quiet and relaxed introduction to a new family. They should never be an impulse purchase in the spirit of generosity that goes along with the season. They are a big responsibility. As an advertisement it works, it sells product (not necessarily dog related products) but it is wrong to think that puppies make good Christmas gifts.

Buy a nice toy for a dog today. Take good care of the pet you have. Purchase a 'Dogs in Canada' magazine and look through the breeds. Give a leash and a collar with a book on how to pick the perfect puppy and research your favorite breeds. Give gift certificates for veterinary care, obedience classes, books on dog training. Plant a seed, do your homework and get the perfect pet at another time of year. ■

Laurie Burk's Hairstyling In Your Home



In Haliburton County over 26 years.

Laurie, Ross & family
would like to wish our family, clients and friends
Happy Holidays (and all the best for 2009)



457-1267



Gord Kidd Hearing Instrument Specialist

Free hearing test. Free trial of digital hearing aid.

20 years serving Haliburton County.
Providers for veteran affairs, compensation &
most insurance companies

Call For
Appointment Today

Minden Hearing Service

Hear today hear tomorrow

Toll Free Haliburton Minden
Minden: 41 Bobcaygeon Rd Haliburton: Halco Plaza 1-866-276-7120 457-9171 286-6001

Hear

Mention this ad and get
FREE BATTERIES



**30% Off All Services and
Gift Certificate Purchases
during December**

Marcys

Day & Medi Spa
Call today for an appointment.

Located on Highland St
just across from the LCBO

457-4603

Look & Feel This Holiday Season
With The Help of These Great Companies



Come to relax
Come to be Pampered

Body Treatments,
Thelassotherapy
Massage • Facials
Maincures • Pedicures
Body Waxing
Eye Treatments
Ladies Spa Days
& Related Products



Ask about our
Christmas Spa
Packages!

Home of the
Ionic Foot Cleanse

Lady Esther
Day Spa & B&B **705-754-3034**

www.ladyesther.ca

Gift Certificates Available

Need a barber?

25 years experience
Call to book your appointment
Thurs & Fri 9-5
Saturday 9-1
Walk-ins always welcome.



Head Inn (705) 286-2585
Edi Anderson
HAIRSTYLING
FAMILY SALON SERVICES 102 Bobcaygeon Rd, Minden

Introducing... Blue Sky Yoga Studio

Located adjacent to Haliburton Chiropractic & massage
Therapy Corner of Dysart & Highland, just past the LCBO



Give the gift of wellness this year!
Gift Certificates now available for January classes
457-3500 haliburtonchiropractic@bellnet.ca

**MAGIC TOUCH
DAY SPA**

FULL SERVICE AESTHETICS

Let us help you look & feel your best this holiday season!



Enhancing
your natural
beauty
with the
Magic Touch!

Gift Certificates Available

705-457-5043
V&S Stedman's Mall, Lower Level
187 Highland Street, Haliburton

**Look your
best this
year!! Visit
any of these
great
locations.
They can help
you look and
feel GREAT!**



Gift Certificates Available

**Brighten Your Smile
For Christmas!**

- Mobile visits
- Tooth Whitening
- Scaling
- Polishing
- Sealants
- Sports guards
- Fluoride Treatments

Lisa Stoughton, RDH
457-GRIN (4746)



Call now to book
your appointment
**Independent
Dental Hygiene Clinic**
Located at 209 Highland St, Haliburton
(old Kosy Komer building)



experience the
Wind in the Willows
DAY SPA



A Full Service & Acupuncture Clinic

- Massage
- Reflexology
- Acupuncture
- Energy Psychology Therapies
- Hypnosis
- Manicures & Pedicures
- Facials
- Health & Wellness Retreats

**Christmas
Packages
Available**

At the Wigamog Inn Resort
1701 Wigamog Road
Haliburton

457-1838 or 1-866-457-1836



Winter Birds

... from pg. 1

an unusual number of Red Tailed Hawks, in fact a record number, nine of them, and we don't quite know why. It might be due to an increase in the snowshoe hare population, although the Red Tailed is also quite a scavenger of road kill.

"We've also noticed an increase in Bald Eagle sightings this year, which may have to do with the late spawning of the Whitefish. Thirty-three Bald Eagles have been sighted in the Kawartha Lakes, Coboconk,

Balsam Lake area as well. We've also seen some Belted Kingfishers, which aren't winter species, but like the Loon, some do stick around as long as there's open water."

to Bird Studies Canada, which also produces the Breeding Bird Atlas of Ontario." That book is a very important research tool for ornithologists and naturalists of all stripes – and an essential part of any birders' library.

Birding has become a very popular activity over the last 20 years, with the proliferation of feeders, and an increased interest in the natural world. There is something truly satisfying about learning the different sounds, flight patterns, and habitats of our native birds and observing them in the wild, and at close range at feeders. "This year it seems there is an excellent crop of cone seeds, and we've already counted hundreds of White-Winged Crossbills, for example, as well as many other finch species. The count for each species is highly dependent on what food is available in the bush. And nature has its own defences against over-feeding. For instance, after a bumper crop of cone seeds, and the resulting expansion of the species, the trees start to produce less seeds to discourage the birds, and encourage seeding. Similarly, when Haliburton was overrun by rodents, mice, chipmunks, and red squirrels two summers ago, the owls, hawks and so on had a wonderful year. Now the rodent population has crashed, and we've seen almost no owls here – just one Barred Owl – the rest have had to go further south, or simply haven't made it."

Many Haliburtonians will remember the huge flocks of Evening Grosbeaks of the late 1980s and early 1990s that sometimes could dominate a feeder for an entire day. "There were flocks of two or three hundred Grosbeaks often seen," says Barry. "Some naturalists see this explosion was due to an outburst of spruce bud worm in the northern boreal forest that allowed the Grosbeaks to raise lots of young. As the bud worms decreased, the flocks had to come south. And now, 15 years later, we've counted only 22 so far across the county. But we have seen



teacher was Doug Hodgson. My Great Grandfather farmed in West Guilford: he had 16 children from two wives, most of them boys, which probably accounts for most the Barry Clan in that area. My family farm was south of Minden, between Minden and Kilmount."

The Barrys do a lot of their birding from their canoe. Two years ago they canoed down the Gull, through Gull lake, and then down to Norland, in a December that was a little milder than this one, to say the least. It's hard to imagine a more peaceable and pleasant way to spend a day than meandering by canoe and observing our wonderful variety of birds in their natural habitat.

This year's bird count will be fully tallied by early January, and the Voice will bring the final results to you at that time. ■



Top left: Bald Eagle
Top right: Male and Female White Winged Crossbill
Centre left and right: Pine Siskin
Above: Red Throated Loon

Wishing Everyone A Happy Holiday Season



castle
building centres

EMMERSON LUMBER LTD.

toll free: 1-888-339-3325 • fax: 457-1520

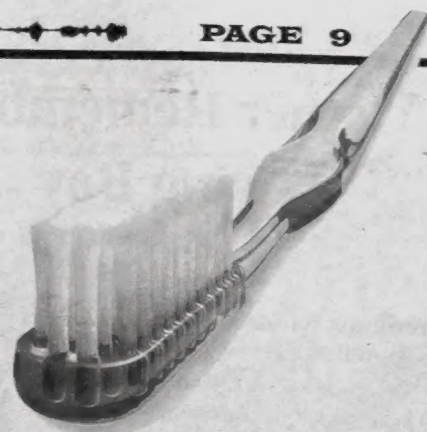
email: information@emmersonlumber.com internet: www.emmersonlumber.com

457-1550

Minden Family Dentistry

What New Ownership Means For Patients

By George Farrell



Dr. John (Painless) Purc, the long time Minden dentist is retiring. 'Painless' is quite the nickname for a dentist, and an accolade to Purc's expertise at extractions, and the insertion of those needles, that some people fear more than pain itself. Taking over for Purc is Minden Family Dentistry, consisting of doctors, assistants and technicians that bring a team approach to dentistry. Prior to the takeover, even though Dr. Purc had other dentists working in the Minden office, they were working independently.

The new owner of Minden Family Dentistry is Dr. Rene Boljkovac. Dr. Boljkovac is originally from Toronto, but moved to Elliot Lake where he had a practice for 12 years. In the late 90's he moved to Bobcaygeon to be closer to his ailing father. He hung his shingle there and still has a practice in



Bobcaygeon- Bobcaygeon Family Dentistry- but recently expanded his business to Minden because "I like to work, and many small communities like Minden require more medical services, including dentistry." In addition to Dr. Boljkovac, other dentists at the Minden practice include Dr. Helena Cwiklinski, Dr. Richard Bastien, and Dr. John Purc. Dr. Purc is retiring, but he wants to do it slowly, because he cares about his patients, and wants to stick around in order to make the transition as smooth as possible for everyone.

The health team concept seems to be the way many health practitioners prefer to go, and any good team can be more than the sum of its parts. "What we're doing here is exciting, because it's a team building approach," offers Dr. Boljkovac. "It's a fresh and invigorating experience when you get to work with other colleagues. It's fun to come to work."

In addition to the dentists, the team consists of Denturist John Tatsiopoulos, Dental Assistants Teresa Woroniecka, Skye Smith and Sharron Robinson, Dental Assistant 2nd Level Dana Robertson, Dental and Business Assistant Linda Neumann, and Hygienist Caroline Ludlow.

Sandra Slauenwhite is the business consultant in charge of training the staff. "Now this office has 2 more dentists," Slauenwhite says, "and they're looking to increase their hours as the demand grows."

So, what does all this additional expertise mean to the patients? More specifically what does it mean to patients without a dental plan? People without a dental plan of course have to pay for all their own dental visits and possibly those of other family members out of their own pockets. It used to be that when Dr. Purc owned the business payments could be delayed until the bill was received in the mail. That

meant those people who could not immediately afford the payment could at least have a little time to get it together.

Patients should be aware that the Minden Family Dentistry asks for payment before they leave the premises. There is also the possibility that patients might be sent to a specialist, out of town. There can be additional expenses involved with that because many dentists charge more than the Ontario Dental Association fee guidelines, so it's always a good idea to get a full sense of probable and possible charges, options and fee structures, in advance.

"Fees can be higher in some rural areas due to the costs of delivery," says Ms. Slauenwhite, but that's offset here by the fact that we don't charge above the guidelines."

At Dr Boljkovac's Bobcaygeon practice he offers something called Care Credit, which is a third-party financing plan. It's an interest-free plan which gives approved customers up to 2 years to pay. This is a great system for some people who may not be able to immediately afford large dental expenditures, such as dentures.

"We assumed that we could get the same thing here, in Minden," says Dr Boljkovac,

but Care Credit are not taking on any new practices at the present time, and we're looking for a new third-party organization with a similar plan. These plans are great for patients who need them because it means that they can get the work done right away."

The Minden Dental Clinic offers patients general dentistry, orthodontics (which covers things like braces), root canals, and dentures. One of the new services is a dental hygiene program, and coming soon will be digital X-Ray technology which uses up to 90% less radiation than traditional X-Rays. Look for the dental newsletter in your mailbox, for up-to-date information. You can contact Minden Family Dentistry at (705) 286-2522. Office hours are Mon-Fri 8:00 am -5:00 pm. The office is located at 158 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden. ■

The Minden Family Dentistry Team: Teresa Woroniecka, Dr. Helena Cwiklinski, owner Dr. Rene Boljkovac, Linda Neumann, Denturist John Tatsiopoulos, Dana Robertson, Skye Smith, Carolyn Ludlow, Absent: Sharron Robinson, Dr. John Purc and Dr. Richard Bastien

Season's Greetings
AVERY AUDIO
1103 Dorset, ON. Phone: 705-766-2422

LAW OFFICE
RAYMOND G. SELBIE B.A. LL.B.
OVER 30 YEARS IN PRACTICE
IN HALIBURTON COUNTY
34 Maple Ave • Phone 1-705-457-2435
Box 186 • Fax 1-705-457-3074
Haliburton, Ontario • e-mail rselbie@on.aibn.com
K0M 1S0
WILLS • POWERS OF ATTORNEY
REAL ESTATE and MORTGAGES
ESTATES
CORPORATE and COMMERCIAL

R&D Computer Solutions
New and used computer sales and service
Network installation
Low cost on site & in-shop service
www.rdcomp.ca
email: support@rdcomp.ca **457-3698**



Season's Greetings
from all of us at
CIBC

Bell Mobility
VAN & TRUCK WORLD
CANADA'S PREMIER VAN & TRUCK ACCESSORY CENTERS
Rusty's Auto Service
11429 Hwy. 35
(Just South of Minden)
286-1434

Mother Remembers Her Son as a Hard Working, Loving Boy

... from pg. 1

version, which costs, I'm told, about \$25 a pill, and then Oxycontin, which goes for between \$65 and \$80 a dose. I don't know how these drugs are available - I just felt helpless in trying to stop him."

Both Oxycontin and Percocet are prescription drugs used to control pain, generally in cancer patients. Percocet delivers its goods quickly, while Oxycontin releases slowly. Both drugs contain oxycodone, an opioid that's in the same family as morphine, heroin, and codeine. Percocet pills generally contain about 5 milligrams of the drug, along with some acetaminophen, which, if the user takes too many pills, will make him sick. Oxycontin pills contain from 10 to 80 milligrams and is coated in a slow release formula. Drug users have learned that smashing or crushing the pills gives you immediate access to all of the oxycodone - which produces a massive, and dangerous, rush. As with most drugs, regular use reduces the buzz: more and more is required to get the necessary high. Withdrawal makes the user really sick, which is relieved by more of the drug. Soon the cycle begins to take over the user's life, sometimes with astonishing quickness.

When Dan Kay was 19 his life was not only compromised almost irrevocably by his drug use, but the connections that drug use had forced him to make with the criminal world of drug dealers had begun to put his very life in danger. Drug dealers love kids like Dan: somehow they find ways to make money, which ends up in the dealers' pockets. Yet they're so dependent on the dealers they would never consider ratting on them. In any event, doing so could well have been a death sentence on its own. These people held Dan's life in their hands, and gradually, as Dan began to owe more and more money, that life began to be squeezed out of him. Just as the drugs had taken one part of his life, the dealers began to take another. Dan's friends remember him risking serious injury or even death by rolling out of cars head first into ditches to escape a beating from the dealers, or worse.

"I knew how bad it was, and I knew that he was in real trouble, but I still couldn't find any way to get him help," says his Mom.

"I have to think that once you've started down that path, this town just writes you off - I can't believe there wouldn't be help for some kids - but there wasn't for Danny - nothing. And I hope

that something can be done before other kids die the way he did. Dan left me, his father, and his two loving brothers, David and Dylan to mourn for the rest of our lives. And he was such a good person."

The last year of Dan Kay's life was a kind of living hell for him and his family. His addiction, and the dealers, owned his life. He also got sick, lost his girlfriend, and soon lost almost all traces of his self-respect. The financial pressures and threats of violence from the dealers, were intense and unrelenting. And the pressure of



Top left: Dan Kay as a young man and in an earlier photo when he was a boy. ... and Susan Kay with photo album of her late son.

Top right: What OxyContin pills look like
Middle: What a Marijuana joint looks like
Bottom: A typical set up for Cocaine usage.



his addiction was equally unrelenting. He was caught in a terrible prison from which he could only see one escape - by wrapping an electrical cord around his neck and ending it all.

Sue Kay's petition, a kind of desperate cry from her heart to the world, is her way of trying to make some sense out of the tragic chaos of her son's life. The petition isn't really addressed to anyone in particular - not the politicians, the social workers, the police, the hospitals: Sue's not a political person but rather someone who simply believes some good can come from Dan's death, if even part of his story is told.

The petition reads:

"This petition is a plea, to the citizens of Haliburton, to acknowledge the harsh reality of drug abuse in our community.

If the availability of treatment were as available as drugs, our friends, family, and our children would have hope. It's time to recognize the problem in its severity, and not seep it under the rug.

My son Danny was a kind, loving, hard-working young man who in the prime of his life, could no longer endure the hold of his addiction. Do this for Danny, do this for your own children, siblings, and friends. Help them to help themselves.

This petition is a wish from my heart, to do what we can to provide support, so our children, our brothers and sisters, and our friends and neighbours young and old, may live again.

In loving memory of my son, Danny Kay."

Dan Kay's funeral was attended by hundreds of people, a testimony to his kind nature and the regard in which his friends and families held him. Many friends

also noted the presence of some of the drug dealers who so successfully and mercilessly preyed upon him. Some of them were overheard making jokes about smoking the ashes.

There is a great deal of bravery in Sue Kay's public acknowledgment of the facts of her son's life and the manner of his death. Drug addiction and in particular, suicide, still carry strong society taboos. But, as she says, "I just want some good to come of this death. That's all."

Sue Kay's petition is available to sign at Haliburton's Jug City, and at various other locations throughout the County. ■

**Wishing
Everyone
Happy
Holidays**

**G.J. BURTCH
CONSTRUCTION**

Haliburton
705-457-3837

*Seasons Greetings from
the Staff and Board at*

SIRCH Community Services & Consulting

*"Wishing you all a
wonderful holiday
season and a healthy
and happy 2009."*

*"We couldn't do it
without you!"*

SIRCH
So It Really Can Happen
Community Services & Consulting

Hewitt Septic Services
*wish their customers & friends
all the best of the holiday season.*

(A Division of Shepherd Environmental)

**286-1178 Hewitt
445-3744 Shepherd**

Open Boxing Day

8am - 2pm

Door Prizes for the First 25 People

Draw
for
Kenmore
BBQ
(\$400 Value)

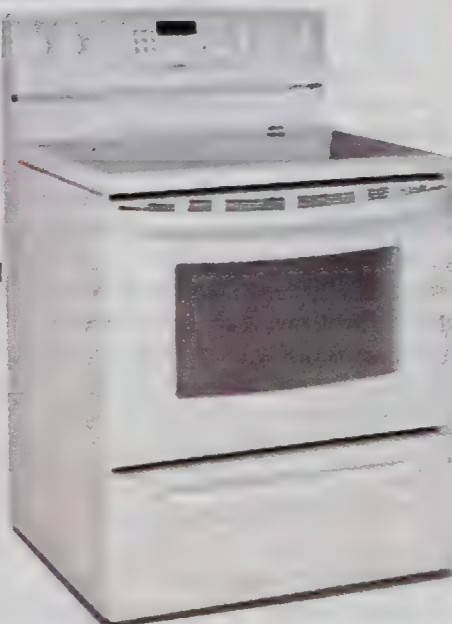


\$450 OFF
799⁹⁹

18.8 CU.FT FRIDGE WITH
SWING-DOOR BOTTOM
FREEZER
- digital temperature control
- 3 fixed tempered glass
shelves
- 5 door shelves
#22906 Sears Reg. 1249.99
Platinum model only.

SAMSUNG

Look for the ENERGY STAR logo
on our products. It shows that the
product meets ENERGY STAR
specifications for energy efficiency.



\$300 OFF
499⁹⁹

30" SELF-CLEAN
SMOOTH-TOP
RANGE.
5.3 cu.ft.
oven capacity
#60602.
Sears Reg. 799.99



\$300 OFF
499⁹⁹

32in.
720p
2 HDMI
Inputs
SONY Bravia
32in. LCD 720p HDTV
#KDL-32L4000 #13811
Sears Reg. 799.99



\$450 OFF
849⁹⁹

40in.
1080p
3 HDMI
Inputs
SONY Bravia
40in. LCD FULL
HD 1080p TV
#KDL-46G000
#13055 Sears Reg. 1299.99
Also, on sale 34" TV #13886
Sears Reg. 1599.99 1149.99
52" TV #13857 Sears Reg. 2199.99 1499.99



**DOOR
CRASHER**

750 AVAILABLE NATIONALLY

\$120 OFF
279⁹⁸

8.8 CU.FT. CHEST FREEZER
- 2 storage levels - lock
- Frost & Power-on indicator
#15909 Sears Reg. 399.99
Also available in white.



**DOOR
CRASHER**

100 AVAILABLE NATIONALLY

\$40 OFF
89⁹⁹

1.1 CU.FT. MICROWAVE
OVEN WITH 10 POWER
LEVELS.
#871103 Sears Reg. 129.99



ONE DAY ONLY!
Fri. Dec. 26, 2008 where open
\$250 OFF

1349⁹⁹

CRAFTSMAN
27" DUALSTAGE
SNOWBLOWER WITH
13.5 FT.LB OF TORQUE
WITH POWER
STEERING

Briggs & Stratton
Snow Series
engine. 6 forward
plus 2 reverse multi
speeds. 180" with
single motion side
chute control.
#52839
Sears reg.
1599.99

50% OFF
349⁹⁹

FREE SPIRIT DUAL ACTION
ELLIPTICAL TRAINER
MY Tracks StepsCounter
keeps track of the
total steps you take
while exercising.
#30620 Sears Reg. 699.99

50% OFF
749⁹⁹

NordicTrack folding treadmill
Cushioned deck. 2-speed CoolAire fan.
Dual integrated speakers.
EKG heart rate monitor.
#30627 Sears Reg. 1499.99
Sale prices end Sunday
Dec. 28, 2008 where open
While quantities last.



**Fantastic
Electronics
and
Large Selection
of Further
Reduced TV's**



1500 AVAILABLE NATIONALLY

\$130 OFF
499⁹⁹

18 CU.FT. FRIDGE
WITH TOP FREEZER
- 2 sliding glass shelves.
#41922 Sears Reg. 629.99

Look for the ENERGY STAR logo
on our products. It shows that the
product meets ENERGY STAR
specifications for energy efficiency.

Yes we still have snowblowers while supplies last

SEARS Appliance Centre
Haliburton 457-1170

Over 6000 sq ft of Electronics, Appliances, Bedding, Lawn & Garden and more....

County Budget to Set the Standard

Liz Daniels
Staff Reporter

Last week County Council reviewed their 2009 draft budget and it is setting a new standard for each of the municipalities to strive for. The draft document presented by staff for 2009 proposed a 1.4 percent increase across the board for a total of \$10,238,900. It quickly became apparent that the Council hopes to do even better by achieving a zero percent increase to tax rates set by the County.

County CAO Jim Wilson said, "Management staff has been working on the budget for the last several months and have taken the current economic climate into consideration." Wilson said that the staff had attempted to achieve minimal increases and impact, while still providing adequate funds for various projects including the five year Official Plan review, expansion of broadband services, road and bridge rehabilitation, acquiring an elec-

tronic agenda and document management package as well as various tourism initiatives.

"I feel it is a fair document," he said, adding that the department heads had been very realistic in their projections.

Budget details were presented by Laura Janke, County Treasurer, who called it a good news story. In her summary Janke said, "The (proposed) increase will use the growth related assessment only. Based on this budget the residential tax rate will decrease 9.45 percent, so anyone experiencing an increase in their assessment of this amount will not pay any more County taxes."

Janke told Council that at this time, the only missing piece that could have a substantial impact on the budget is Building Canada's response to submissions the County has made for infrastructure projects. She told Council that the draft budget included the County's one third portion for the projects, based on the assumption that the funds will be received. She also advised Council that she had no expectation of additional provincial infrastructure monies as the funding announcements have already been made.

Janke said that a recent review by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs suggested that the County's reserve position continues to receive a low rating. However, during 2008 the County made fairly healthy increases to their reserves and Janke said that their rating should improve after a review of their financial position at year end.

The draft budget proposes contributions to reserves (some of which are specifically targeted for infrastructure projects) that will result in a \$3.75 million dollar balance at the end of 2009. Janke said that as well as satisfying the requirements of Municipal Affairs, these funds will also help the County to stay out of a borrowing position.

While Janke portrayed the County's budget as a good news story, she said the education portion of taxation for 2009 remains unknown, but she suggested that residents will likely be hit with a lot more school taxes this year.

Discussions then turned to requests for funding from outside groups and organizations. During 2008 the County received

requests for assistance totaling \$105,000 and paid out \$71,000 in support. Council recently passed a resolution confirming that it would not accept any more external funding requests and would limit support to Trails and Tours, as part of a multi-year commitment, and for a similar long term commitment to the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association for the Fish Hatchery.

Algonquin Highlands Reeve Eleanor Harrison voiced her concern about County's earlier decision which meant

"If we lose any anticipated funding it will have a significant impact." (Jim Wilson)

no funding for the Children's Water Festival. She said, "I've attended this event every year since it began and I think we need to find a way to assist them. It is the best \$5,000 that the County spends and I feel that we owe it to them. To watch the kids would bring tears to your eyes."

Council seemed to be in agreement with Harrison. Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey said there was some flexibility built into the budget and Minden Hills Reeve Jim McMahon suggesting that the funds come out of the Economic Development budget as

a promotional item. After clarifying several items with Economic Development and Tourism Director Bob Smith, Harrison simply suggested adding an additional \$5,000 to the budget.

Minden Hills Deputy Reeve Cheryl Murdoch agreed that the water festival is an invaluable tool and the money would be well spent. But, she said, "I don't believe in robbing Peter to pay Paul. Council must simply come up with the money." Janke agreed to

include funding in the next draft.

Council didn't review each department's expenditures individually, as this has been done at the committee level. However, Janke did advise how expenses are broken down by department. Road construction and maintenance, including bridges, consume 41 percent of the budget for an estimated cost of \$4,858,800. The health budget (including EMS services and emergency management) is estimated at \$2.2 million dollars and Social Services and Housing are budgeted at \$2.78 million. Contribution to reserves, waste management, economic development & tourism, planning, library services, 911 services, broadband connectivity, forestry, buildings, computers and administration account for the remainder of the budget.

According to Janke the budget will require some tweaking based on 2008 year end totals, but the good news was that at the County level, no more taxes would be levied.

Fearrey said that he didn't think the County should spend any more than last year. He said, "The increase is only \$142,900, so why not just find the money?" He said, "There are a few questionable expenditures: we have come this far, why not get back to last year's total and get on with it? We owe it to the taxpayers give the economy right now."

Algonquin Highlands Deputy Reeve Tom Gardner agreed, saying that if the County kept spending down, there would be more transparency. All of Council agreed that an excellent job had been done on the draft budget and they had never been so far into the process by mid December.

Wilson cautioned that if Council didn't take inflation into account, down the road they may be faced with having to impose an increase that is more difficult for taxpayers to bear. He said, "If we lose any anticipated funding it will have a significant impact."

Fearrey said, "These are not normal times and I'm afraid we haven't seen anything yet."

Janke asked Council for direction. She said if Council revisited the budget in more detail in January, it would more accurately reflect expenses, making it easier to determine if cuts must be made.

McMahon recommended that each departmental budget be reviewed by the appropriate committee in January, suggesting that department heads try to find a one percent reduction. He said, "If

we're all on the same page, the budget could be passed in January, rather than in March. Council agreed.

Speaking about the process the following day to the Algonquin Highlands Council, Reeve Harrison said, "County Council has set a precedent for us to try to follow." ■

"These are not normal times and I'm afraid we haven't seen anything yet." (Murray Fearrey)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

from your friends at...



STAN'S GARAGE

455-9001

14367 Hwy 118 top of Dovers Hill
Haliburton

FULL COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Only \$299

Refurbished Pentium 4 systems.
2.8 Ghz, 512 Ram, 40 GB HDD,
CD Writer/DVD Rom.

6 MONTH WARRANTY!

FREE 15" MONITOR
with each computer!

HIGHLANDS Computer SERVICES

PC & Laptop Repairs, Virus Removal & Prevention
New and Used Sales, Faxing / Photocopying
Computer Tutoring

28 York Street
Opposite Rails End Gallery
Haliburton

457-8880
hcsHaliburton@gmail.com

Sale ends Dec 23, 2008.

PS THE MINDEN DRUG STORE

Monday to Saturday 9am - 6pm

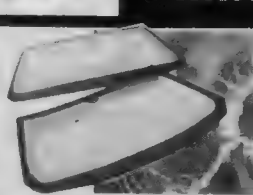
286-1220
110 Bobcaygeon Rd.
Minden, ON, N0M 2K0
Live well with **PHARMASAVE**
Peter Meraw and Richard Smith Co-owners

Taking care of you and your family

AKERS PRECISION AUTO GLASS

Hwy 35 Minden

SPECIALIZING IN
Repair / Replace
All Automotive Glass
Automotive & Marine Upholstery
Window Tinting



Proudly serving the Highlands Since 1998

Toll Free: 1-877-286-6845 **705 286-6845**

PRECISION TIRE

COMPLETE TIRE SERVICE FOR YOUR CAR & LIGHT TRUCK

Conveniently located off Hwy. 35 Minden

PIRELLI BRIDGESTONE TOYO TIRES
GENERAL TIRE Firestone KUMHO



Toll Free: 1-877-286-6845 **705 286-6845**

New to the County!

Fallout from the Mining Act Review

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

Late in November, the Ardoch Algonquin First Nation was officially advised that the Government of Ontario, the Frontenac Ventures Corporation, the Algonquins of Ontario and Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nation had signed a memorandum of accommodation to allow uranium exploration in the Algonquin homeland near Ardoch. The deal will, in essence, allow drilling for uranium to proceed in the Mississippi River watershed and pose a very real threat to the source water of millions of people. The impact of the decision will likely be far reaching, and no doubt have an affect right here in Haliburton County.

The agreement was reached even while consultations continued between Ontario and the Ardoch Algonquins to ensure a fair and comprehensive process was in place and in the midst of a comprehensive review of an antiquated Mining Act.

Residents in the North Frontenac area have stated openly that the negotiations were conducted behind closed doors with no involvement allowed by property owners, businesses or any of the 23 municipal governments that have petitioned the province for a moratorium against uranium exploration and drilling. The Community Coalition Against Mining Uranium (CCAMU) is protesting what they call a travesty through the media and are asking those concerned to demand answers from the province.

Robin Simpson, co-founder of Fight Uranium Mining and Exploration (FUME) also paints a different picture of the agreement that was reached between Frontenac, the Algonquin, Shabot Obaadjiwan and Ontario. When asked for his thoughts, Simpson said, "They sure as hell wouldn't get me to sign any agreement like that."

"What happened in reality is that the Algonquins sat at the point of a gun with these people. Frontenac Ventures had a huge lawsuit against them and as they don't have the resources to fight at that level, they were forced to cave in and sign the agreement."

Simpson agrees with the sentiments of Robert Lovelace, past Chief of the Ardoch Band who were left out of the process. Lovelace maintains that the agreement simply represents the colonial relationship that the Crown has had with aboriginal people for the last century and a half where treaties and land sales follow an extended period of intimidation, denial of responsibility and divide and conquer tactics.

In a letter to the editor of Frontenac News, Lovelace said, "Canada and its provinces have yet to learn that colonial muscle only leads to more resentment and conflict. The recent agreement has left a bitter taste in the mouths of honest people." According to Lovelace the Shabot Obaadjiwan will only be permitted to look over the shoulder of Frontenac Ventures while deep core drilling for uranium takes place.

Lovelace said, "Ontario calls it a victory, while many residents know that it was a defeat brought about with the threat of a 77 million dollar lawsuit, court costs, fines and jail sentences." He went on to say that the mine will operate for a decade or so and then shut down, leaving behind toxic tailings that will poison their watershed. According to Lovelace, even the most conservative research indicates that no environmental or health protection regulations have ever limited the development of an open pit uranium mine in Canada and governments just don't care to get involved.

Lovelace said, "The affects are already obvious. Beautiful land has been scraped clean for drilling and roads have been forced across cold water streams and wetlands. Local real estate values have plummeted around the exploration area and lifelong tourists are relocating or looking elsewhere for their little pieces of heaven." He says that salt of the earth people have been threatened and feel powerless as Ontario ignores their petitions and intelligent concerns and in the meantime, the Shabot Obaadjiwan have played their part in the colonial dance with Ontario.

"For the rest of us it is not over," said Lovelace, and that is where Robin Simpson stands as well as he waits to hear the results of the Mining Act review and hopes to see subsurface rights returned to property owners and appropriate consultation processes put in place before exploration or mining can take place.

tion or mining can take place.

Simpson referred to a couple called Morrison, recently featured in a W5 segment who managed to negotiate that their land be removed from the Frontenac claim area and their mineral rights returned to them. He said, "They got their rights back, but they're still situated in the centre of a big claim area. It won't be staked, but it won't be bought out either. The possibility of them sitting in the midst of an open pit mine is not unlikely."

"We're in the same position here in Haliburton. I can't imagine the government cancelling existing claims and no matter what amendments we have been able to achieve to the mining act, these claims will stick," said Simpson. He went on to say that, should the government grandfather existing claims for a set period of time, they may push mining companies to either get on with their exploration or give up their claims, forcing activity to move forward sooner than was earlier anticipated.

"I think they'll grandfather all outstanding claims rather than be faced with the lawsuits. Most of the existing claims have been staked properly under the law, so technically even if we win we'll likely end up in the same position as before, unless the government has a fund up their sleeves to make a settlement with the prospectors."

Simpson said, "Frontenac pushed all the right buttons and the government let them. Legally the action they took was within their rights but the government was totally remiss by allowing the land to be staked without first notifying or consulting with the Algonquins. The government had all the ammunition they needed to stop the staking from taking place, given that it was a land claim area, but they failed to do so, which speaks volumes."

According to Simpson this points to the contempt that the government has for aboriginal people and their land claims even though they continue to pay lip service to aboriginal people. He said, "Robert Lovelace sums it up when he calls it a colonial government. Nothing has changed."

Simpson said he felt a bit disheartened and has lost some of his enthusiasm that change may actually come. He said "We (FUME) are proceeding with our letter writing campaign and the avenue for people to provide input through the internet remains open until January 9th." He added however, that the only true consultation taking place at this point is with aboriginal groups.

Simpson says that FUME continues to get copies of letters that have been sent to the government, particularly from lake associations in the area and from residents and cottagers who are just now learning about the risks of uranium mining.

He said, "We've done everything we possibly could, taking things in a direction that would allow us to make a difference and to affect the mining act in a positive way. Now we're just waiting to see the results." He did say that he is less optimistic than when the consultation process finished as he can't imagine the government not grandfathering the claims in existence, which leaves

"If you think I will let people come onto my land and ruin it, you're wrong." (Robin Simpson)

him, along with his partner, in the same situation as before; right in the middle of a claim area.

Simpson also said that he can't see Bancroft Uranium proceeding further with additional exploration or actual mining. He said, "The company is now in the hands of their lenders, but it's hard to predict what will happen. Everything falls under the guidelines of the market and uranium has dropped considerably in value. Nothing will be pulled out of the ground given present values."

Simpson and his partner Christine Atrill have been tireless in their fight against uranium mining and exploration. He said, "I was invigorated by the process, but as the day comes closer to a decision I just feel tired. If we don't achieve the changes we sought to the act, our job will become 100 times greater than it was. We will have to kick-start FUME again, get every cottager in Haliburton involved and it will be a huge job."

Then, despite his exhaustion and ongoing frustration, the activist in Simpson rises again. He said, "I've told the Ministry that they simply have to fix things. If you think I will let people come onto my land and ruin it, you're wrong." ■

Wishing
Everyone
A Safe and
Happy Holiday
Season.



HALIBURTON
VETERINARY SERVICES

**HE HIGHLAND
ELECTRIC**
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

WOODSTOVES
FIREPLACES
INSULATED CHIMNEYS



Heinz Huck (705) 286-1885 MINDEN

**Eagle Lake
Community Church**

**Annual
Christmas Eve
Carol Service**

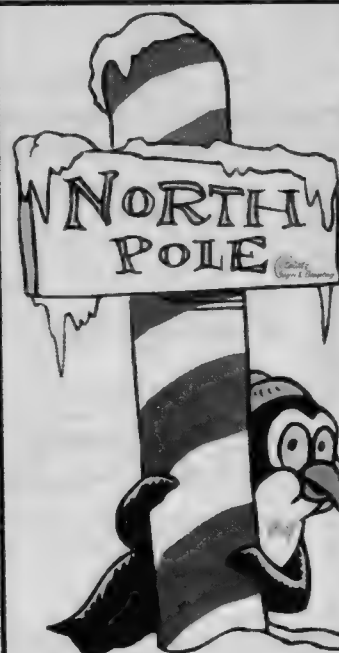
Wed, Dec 24th @ 7:00 pm
Everyone Welcome. 2605 Eagle Lk Rd
754-2240



**Wishing Everyone
Good Health
and A Happy
& Good New Year!**

from
everyone at

**County
Sign & Display**



**Season's
Greetings**



from Kevin, Ivy & Tom

**Haliburton
GLASS AND MIRROR**
705-457-4573



**Fabulous Cuisine
At Wigamog Inn**

Christmas Dinners
Weekend of Dec 13th & Dec 20th

New Years Gala
on New Years
Buffet & Dance

1-800-661-2010
www.wigamoginn.com
Haliburton, On

For reservations
705-457-2000

Custom Gatherings!



Ring in
the Season
with
**FESTIVE
GATHERINGS**
in our Hangar!

Whether celebrating with friends, family or co-workers,
we plan great food for you occasion within your budget.
Call us to customize your event, large or small.



McKECK'S PLACE
457-3443
"NOT JUST A SPORTS BAR"
Owner
Walt McKechnie Downtown Haliburton



**This Holiday Season
Dine Out - Leave the
Cooking to us....**

**Cooked to Perfection
every time**

Visit us for mouth watering steaks, friendly
service and a really comfortable atmosphere.



Alberta, Angus &
AAA Ontario Beef
Homemade Pastas

Open 6 days a week from 4 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays



The Pepper Mill
STEAK & PASTA HOUSE
(705) 489-1939

**Extensive Wine List
Large Children's Menu
6 Draughts on Tap**

Hwy 35 South of Carnarvon **489-1939**

**Gramma's
Fish & Chips
and more!**



10 varieties of fish • Shrimp
Scallops • ½ lb. burgers

Licensed L.L.B.O.
Bring Your Own Wine

Corner of Hwy. #35 & County Road #21, Minden
(705) 286-6365 **Open 7 days a week**

A Hidden Treasure...



Happy Holidays

Join us for dinner & enjoy an intimate, relaxing
atmosphere, fabulous ambiance & scrumptious cuisine
RESERVATIONS PLEASE

www.halimar.com
457-1300 800-223-7322

**Mumford
Station
Café**



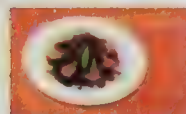
3907 Loop Rd., Harcourt
PIZZA - (705) 448-9960

Dine-in or Take-out
WING NIGHT -
Thursdays 4 p.m. to close

**Full Dining Menu Available
Serving Breakfast Daily**

Open 7:00 am Mon-Fri
8:00 am Sat & Sun
Licensed under LLBO

**Great Food!
Great Service!
Great Place!**



Licensed full
"a la carte"
candlelight
DINING ROOM
overlooking the lake,
open
nightly year round
with reservations
(6-8 p.m).
Cozy LOUNGE BAR
with fireplace, pool table,
foosball, karaoke,
licensed, light
snack food!!!
Lakeside windows

Small quaint
waterfront
Country Inn



BONNIE VIEW
457-2350
800-461-0347
www.bonnieviewinn.com



Our Famous SUNDAY BRUNCH
is held every Sunday all year long
from 10 a.m. until 1p.m.

Any occasion is a good occasion to enjoy the
dining and hospitality of the Red Umbrella Inn

Call for reservation
(705) 489-2462 • 1-800-461-0316

**VILLAGE
CHALET**

Family Restaurant

Relax - Shop - Enjoy...
and let us do the cooking!

Main Street
Downtown Minden



Smileobilers Welcome

Fast Take-Out
Licenced
by L.L.B.O.
Wheelchair
Accessible
Ample Parking
286-2121



WINE FOOD BEER

705-754-9800

Sir Sam's Road - Eagle Lake

After a day of skiing, come
check out Rhubarb

www.rhubaronthelake.com

Rhubarb is
located at the
Silver Eagle
College
Resort and
overlooks
Eagle Lake.
The name is
synonymous
with Eagle
Lake and the
intimate
rhubarb claim
to fame



**This Holiday Season
Dine Out - Leave the
Cooking to us....**



MARTINWOOD
Resort and Golf Course

**Every Friday & Saturday
night in December**



Choose from our
great menu or our

**Special 3 Course
Meal Deals!**

Special Overnight Room Deals!

Deals available in our rooms or
luxury suites with jacuzzi tub

From \$30 per person

**Open for Breakfast, Lunch & dinner
from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily!**

Call for reservations

705-448-1920

4727 Elephant Lake Rd., Harcourt

info@martinwoodresort.com

www.martinwoodresort.com

**Snowmobilers
Welcome!!**



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**
We hope it's a "Slice".

From Pam, Kendra, Melissa,
Kerrie-Lynne, Brit, Kev & Joss.

GODFATHERS

Minden Hwy. 35 & Heritage Plaza

Facing an Unattainable Challenge

Local Chefs Do the Best They Can in Providing an Affordable Meal Plan

Three local chefs have taken on SIRCH's "Chef-of-the-Month" Challenge to date. And with each one unable to make nutritionally balanced meals on a budget of \$6.50 a day for a family of four, it's clear to see that those in the county struggling to make ends meet are between a rock and a hard place.

Monty Miscio, Chef from Bonnie View Inn in Haliburton, was the featured participant in the most recent challenge held at Bob and Wendy's Foodland in Haliburton on Wednesday, Nov. 17.

Miscio put on a live cooking demonstration and showed those in attendance how to make a tasty gumbo soup with chicken leftovers.



"There's no way that you can meet all of the nutritional food requirements at all on so little money," said Miscio during his demonstration.

Canoe FM provided a live feed from the event and prizes were given away through a draw.

The Chef-of-the-Month challenge began in October with Franka Andriano, Owner of Franka's Cafe & Catering and in November, Aaron Walker of the Grill On the Gull was second to step up to the plate.

The challenge is SIRCH's way of raising awareness about how low income families face difficulty in providing themselves with the basic necessities after paying expenses like rent, hydro and heat.

Statistics show that many parents in the county with children have incomes of less than \$18,000/year. That means they are left with less than \$200/month if they have a family of four.

Monte's Stupendous Stewed Chicken Gumbo:

This recipe can be frozen and re-heated

- 1 onion chopped
- 1/2 cup of chopped celery stalks
- 1/2 cup of seasonal vegetables (left over)
- 2 cups of diced, cooked chicken (left over)
- 3/4 cup yellow peas
- 2 cups of leftover rice
- 1/2 cup of gravy (leftover)
- 4 cups of stock (made from leftover carcass)
- 1/2 tablespoon thyme
- salt & pepper to taste
- 1 teaspoon of canola oil

Directions: Soak yellow peas in cold water in fridge for at least 8 hours to soften. Fry onion and celery in pot with canola oil until slightly browned. Add in gravy, other vegetables, thyme, peas and chicken, then bring to simmer. Add liquid from stock to maintain a thickness a little thinner than gravy (should coat the back of a spoon). Simmer covered for 10 minutes. Add rice and simmer for an additional 2 to 3 minutes.

Serves 4 people - cost 15 cents per serving



Nancy Brownsberger of SIRCH serves up Monty Miscio's chicken gumbo to eager taste-testers during the Chef-of-the-Month challenge at Bob and Wendy's Foodland.

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter



Be a Responsible Party Host

Tips from the LCBO to Consider When Planning Your New Year's Party

Why take chances? Reduce the risks of alcohol-related problems when entertaining and help ensure guests arrive home safely by following these 10 tips for responsible hosting:

10. Don't plan physical activities when you serve alcohol. People are generally more prone to injury or mishap after drinking.

9. Always provide low-alcohol and alcohol-free beverages, such as mocktails, non-alcoholic punch, pop, bottled water, tea and coffee.

8. Serve snacks with drinks and always have food available throughout the party to avoid drinking on an empty stomach. Avoid serving salty, sweet or greasy snack foods as guests will become thirstier. High-starch and protein foods such as meats, veggies, cheeses, light dips and breads are good choices.

7. Be prepared for overnight guests:

6. Serve drinks yourself or designate a bartender instead of having an open bar, as guests usually drink more when they serve themselves. Avoid serving doubles and keep a shot glass or jigger next to the bottles - good measurement makes all the difference.

5. Have a plan to deal with any guest who drinks too much. Before the party, ask someone reliable to help you keep things under control.

4. Find out how guests will be getting home from your party. Promote the use of designated drivers and keep cash and telephone numbers on hand for taxis. Encourage your guests to leave their cars at home and take public transportation, cabs, or walk. Be prepared to take away car keys. Never drink and drive or ride with anyone who has been drinking.

3. Stop serving alcoholic beverages at least an hour before the party is over. Bring out more alcohol-free drinks (bottled water, juice, coffee and tea) and food. Remember that having coffee after drinking doesn't make you sober.

2. Plan ahead so that it's easy to follow this advice.

And the number one party tips is...

1. Don't drink too much yourself. As the host, you can stay on top of, and avoid, potential problems when you can think more clearly and act more quickly. ■

County Enhances Meeting Management Technology

Liz Danielson

Staff Reporter

During their meeting on December 17th, County Council agreed to purchase technology that should improve access to agendas, minutes and all associated documentation by Council, staff and the public. A company called I-Compass Technologies was successful in presenting their unique web based services to Council. The company's Civic Web is touted as providing cutting edge meeting management solutions for government and post secondary institutions.

County Clerk Tamara Wilbee has been investigating this type of service for months, and a seminar was held during Municipal Day earlier in the year for all the Municipalities to consider moving to a paperless agenda packages. Highlands East leads the pack in agenda management and moved to laptops and agendas on disc some time ago.

Larry Simons, a local government advisor for I-Compass, explained how the system works to County Council, saying that his company's product would prove to be beneficial, not only to staff and Council, but to the public and press as well. According to Simons the company's services are awarded on a sole course basis as they are the first in Canada to establish a County-wide program that could be shared by the lower tiers, even though they would be licensed separately.

The product is aimed at removing all the manual frustration from the process of preparing agenda packages and is without a doubt a green solution compared to the tens of thousands of pages printed off each year for Council meetings alone. The Civic Web product is aimed at improved productivity and access to information and, acting as a virtual office, can be accessed easily through any browser at any location. It also offers action tracking capabilities and access to a virtual library of information.

Simons said, "The document management portion of the system allows Council, staff and the public to retrieve and search through documents and no software is required to access the system from outside of the County offices. It provides an enormous advancement in transparency and access to information."

Simons ran Council through the Town of Lincoln's system. He said, "Lincoln created a link on their site that is called the Lincoln Virtual Library. Access to the system allows you to search through all your minutes for a specific word or topic under discussion and the response is available immediately. He also demonstrated how he could run a search through the City of Surrey's system for a scanned document dating back as early as the 1880's.

In response to a question by Jim Wilson, Simons confirmed that users could make notations on documents simply by downloading them onto their own systems. Another question was raised about difficulties with dial-up service, and Simons said that it was possible to create agendas in two formats, one in PDF and another as an HTML document adding that you only need to pull up one document at a time, making access quicker.

According to Simons the benefits of the system are substantial. It allows for improved handling of requests for access to information by the public and offers options of accessibility, depending on who is making the request. It provides improved visibility and flexibility in publishing, reduced costs from hard copy imaging, enhanced search capabilities for everyone, improved productivity and continuity and time saving. The system generates reports, tracks action and offers reminders. It is also invaluable from a disaster recovery perspective as there is no loss of information.

Speaking of sharing the program with the lower tiers, Simons said, "It puts everyone on the same page and allows for enhanced sharing of information."

Simons raised the question of sole sourcing their product and said that their service provides a 360 degree view of the meeting process as well as membership in best municipal practices. The system cost is normally \$30,000 for the first year but, after negotiations, was being offered to the County for \$22,000 which includes initial set up, training and implementation. There is an annual fee for subsequent years of \$10,000, which includes unlimited access by users, 1-800 support, quick reference storage, maintenance and any enhancements to the system.

Council raised a number of questions ranging from security to transition difficulties and training time. Simons said that the system included well established protocols and could be offered as a stepped process depending on the County's needs.

Besides the difficulties associated with transition from one system to another, one of the issues shared by several of the municipal councils has been the cost to purchase laptop computers for each member of Council, something that Highlands East has done. This system allows users to review agenda packages from their homes, have documents of interest printed off should they be required, but view the agenda on a screen during the meeting, with no need for a laptop.

After a bit more discussion, Council passed a resolution to enter into a three to five year agreement with I-Compass, pending review of their contract documents and additional negotiations if the County agrees to a longer term contract.

The package offers so much flexibility that Highlands East Deputy Reeve Jim Mackie questioned the need to continue to travel to meetings, but physical attendance is still a requirement of the Municipal Act. It raises the question whether, at some time in the future, Councillors will be able to attend a meeting without leaving the comfort of their own homes or offices. ■

New Year's Eve PARTY

Fun For The Entire Family

8PM

Join in the Torch Walk from Downtown to the Community Centre

8:30 PM - Bonfire

9 PM - Fireworks

Upstairs in the Community Centre!

Tickets \$20.00

Doors Open 7:30 PM

Music by Gord Kidd &

the 50/50 Rockin Country Band

Midnight Buffet

To Reserve Your Tickets Call

Minden Hills TWP Office

286-1260 EX. 200

Downstairs on the Ice!

6:30-8:30 PM FREE FAMILY SKATE

TEENS - DJ SKATING - DANCING - PIZZA

Youth & Teen Skate & Pizza Party

\$5.00 Admission

More info www.minden150.ca



World Famous
Rockcliffe
ESTABLISHED 1924

PRE NEW YEARS BASH

Sat. Dec. 27th

LIVE: Rule Of Thumb
Playing New & Classic Rock

Midnight Buffet & Champagne
\$10.00 person

286-1460 Main Street, Minden

Party Games for New Year's

Fun Ideas for Adults and Teens to Ring in 2009

Guess the Month

Go through old magazines from the past year, or to your local library (this is fun research though) to search through old news articles. Find many events that took place in the past year. Make a list of these events, and have your guests guess which month the event took place in. For example- "What month did the Taoist Tai Chi Society present Dale Walker of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) with a \$500 cheque?" Whoever guesses the most right wins a prize.

Charades of the Past

Go through magazines and newspapers to pick out events from the past year. Use these events as "titles" to act out for Charades or "Win, Lose or Draw". For tons of fun, make each of your guests team up in two's and act out which ever past year's event that they have randomly drawn.

Guess Whose Resolution

Make each of your guests write down five resolutions, each on its own slip of paper. Pull one slip of paper out of a hat at a time and read it out loud. Everyone has to write down who they think made each resolution. At the end of the readings, the person who guessed the most correctly wins a prize. Read some of the wrong guesses out loud for fun!

Find Your Prediction

Make up some phony generic predictions like, "In the New Year you will shave your head", and attach it to a corresponding item (a wig). Hide predictions with their corresponding items. Tell guests that predictions are hidden around the room with corresponding wrapped items, and that they each need to find one, read it aloud to the group, and open it (these make nice funny favours too).

Can't Say

This is a game that is patterned after the game "Taboo." Before the guests arrive write down the name of a person who was big in the news in the past year on each index card. On the back of the card (or somewhere on the front of the card) write down four words that the person who chooses the card cannot use to describe the name on the card to the other guests. Split into two teams. The other guests have one minute to figure out what the name is without the "chooser" of the word using any of the four words that are not allowed. If the "chooser's" team cannot guess the name then the other team gets one chance to guess the correct name. The team who guesses the most names correctly is the winner. For example: The name is "Al Gore". The four words that cannot be used to describe him are vice-president (ok, so that's 2 words), Tipper, Democrat, and election. So the "chooser" could tell the team that "he was in a monumental court battle this last year, he is close with Bill Clinton, he works in politics, etc."

New Year's Eve Word Mix

Everyone is given a word that has to do with New Year's Eve (everyone uses the same word) and make as many other words as they can in five minutes using only the letters in the original word. Repeating a letter is not allowed unless it is repeated in the original word and proper nouns do not count as words. The guest who writes down the most original words is the winner.

Guess Which Guest

Before the party, write down a statement about each guest from the last year. For example, you could write, "Gave birth to twins." "The name of the person _____".

"The _____ names _____ of _____ the _____ twins _____". Or a statement like, "Wore the same outfit every day for two weeks". "The name of the person _____". "A description of the outfit _____". Put all of the statements together on one piece of paper, and give each guest a copy. Have all of your guests mingle, and ask each other questions to determine whose name belongs with each statement. Whoever has the most names filled in correctly after about 10-15 minutes wins.

Who Wins a Prize?

Every 10 minutes or so (or longer, depending on how long the party is supposed to last) call out a question that relates to guests at the party, such as "Who's the youngest here?" "Who brought the best food?" "Who said the last word?" "Who laughs the loudest?" "Who's sitting next to the hostess?" and so on. Award a prize each time you call out a random question. Soon lots of people will have prizes- and they won't have to stay for the entire party, or worry about missing all of the games because they are party hopping.

True or False

Write the names of each guest at the party on a piece of paper. Next to each name write several different statements that can be true or false. Give each person the paper about an hour into the evening. Next to each statement each guest must either write "true" or "false". The person who answers the most statements correctly wins a prize. When everyone has handed in their papers, tally up the true and false votes too. It's pretty funny to see what others think is true.

Mark Arike

Staff Reporter

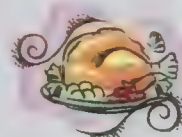
A MISSION OF LOVE 4

A Free Delicious

Traditional Turkey Dinner
for those alone at Christmas
Christmas Day

4:00 pm * Eggnog and Carols

5:00 pm * Dinner

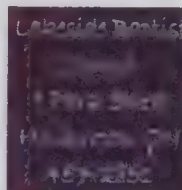


Please call to register by Dec. 18th

Lakeside Baptist Church @ 457-2851

Steve & Stephanie Smith @ 457-3394

or Sue Bain @ 457-2570



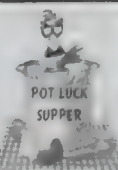
Wilberforce Legion Branch 624 Happenings



Wednesday, Dec 31st.
NEW YEARS CELEBRATION
9 PM TO 1 AM.

Jan 3, 2009
KARAOKE

Jan 9, 2009
POTLUCK



Jam Session
to follow 8 p.m approx



448-2221

THE NORTHWOOD
presents
NEW YEARS EVE 2008
Live Band
Appetizers
4 Drinks Included
Tickets \$25.00 Call 705.457.1710 for info.
Motel Rooms Available



**Have a Safe
& Happy
Holiday**

Season's
Greetings
to Friends
and
Customers

**McKECK'S
PLACE**
Downtown Haliburton
457-3443



LIVE WELL WITH
PHARMASAVE

Minden Pharmasave
110 Bobcaygeon Rd.
Minden, ONT, K0M-2K0

Ph: (705) 286-1220
Fax: (705) 286-6169
www.pharmasave.com

HEAVY WEIGHT BOXING DAY SPECIALS!



PC SPIRAL
HAMS (reg
\$3.99/lb
\$1.99/LB



PC
DECADENT
CHOCOLATE
CHIP
COOKIES

\$1.99



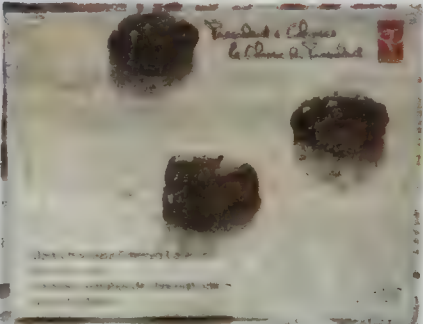
1 DAY ONLY

While quantities last
DEC 26, 8 AM - 5 PM



FRESH PORK BACK RIBS
& PORK TENDERLOIN

**\$5.49
per kilo**



PC DARK CHOCOLATE
COVERED CARAMELS

\$3.99



ROYAL DANSK DANISH
BUTTER COOKIES

\$1.99



REAL CANADIAN WATER

**24 BOTTLES
Just \$2.99**

See our Boxing Week Flyer for
more **HOT PRICES!**

TODD'S independent
YOUR INDEPENDENT GROCER

County Rd. 21. Haliburton

A Banner Year Festival of Banners Winners

By George Farrell

On the morning of Friday December 19th the kids of Archie Stouffer Elementary School (ASES) in Minden, assembled in the gym for some Christmas cheer and celebrations. After singing the national anthem the celebrations began with the banner committee, represented by Jack and Pat Brezina and Deborah Kellett, asking all those who painted banners to come up on stage with their wonderfully colorful pieces of art. And so they did, all the kids lining up and draping their banners before them, to the appreciation of the assembly.

It was all part and parcel of the annual Festival of Banners that started a couple of years ago with the hanging of banners from the lamp standards in downtown Minden. There are children and adult categories, and at Archie Stouffer the three winners in the children's categories were announced. There was a tie for third place between ASES students Dawson Alore, grade 3, for the very effective Bright Moon, and Brenna Hie, grade 4, for Mother Moon and Sunny Star. Second place went to Ali Hicks, grade 7, from J. Douglas Hodgson School, for My Favourite Animal. First place went to Cassidy Havill from ASES for her humorous Muddy Pig. Cash awards were \$25 for first, \$10 for second, and \$5 for third place.

In the adult category third place and \$25 went to that happy plasterer Sebastien Renel, for his dancing image A Spin above the Clouds. Second place and \$50 went to new Highland resident Dawn Piercey for Wolf. First place, and \$100 was won by Sharon Luke for the beautiful banner Pine Sunset.

"It was a very successful and exciting year," said Deborah Kellett, the inspiration for the Festival of Banners, which she runs from The Storeroom, her health food business on Bobcaygeon Road. "This year we put up 40 banners, which were twice as many as last year, and we raised \$2000 from the sale of the banners, which was great. We've also sold over 200 packages of note cards which feature the individual banners from last year. The cards come five to a pack, and include envelopes. They've been tremendously successful, to the extent that we're now taking special orders for people who want cards of a particular banner. We'll do it again next year, featuring this year's banners."

The monies from the sale of the banners and the cards go towards next year's festival. "It cost us \$5,000 to put up the banners," Deborah explains, "so we depend on the community for some of our funds." The Festival of banners is

assisted by donations from local businesses, the Township of Minden Hills, and Haliburton County Development Corporation.

With this year's festival drawing to a close, the call for entries for next year is already underway. "This year the theme for the banners was My Favourite.....," Deborah Kellett explained. "For next year we're supporting the Sesqui Centennial, and the theme is 150 Years of Minden Memories."

You can pick up your entry form at the Storeroom, 136 Bobcaygeon Road in Minden, tel: (705) 286-1424. ■



First place went to Sharon Luke for her Pine Sunset.



ASES students and their colourful banners line the stage. Third place winners Brenna Hie and Dawson Alore, and first place winner Cassidy Havill from ASES display their banners. Missing is Ali Hicks from JDH whose banner won second place.



Enhancing the Economic Vitality of Haliburton County

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

The last month has been a busy time for Haliburton County's Economic Development & Tourism Department. In his report to County Council last week, Director Robert Smith gave details of his activities and efforts on behalf of the County to continue to promote economic growth in the area.

Smith's department has been working in partnership with U-Links, the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC) and Queens University to organize a workshop for people from the business sector and local politicians. The Discovery Workshop, scheduled to be held February 4th in Minden at the Dominion Hotel is one of a series of federally funded workshops. It is designed to allow participants an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the needs and resources of the area and develop stronger ties between community decision makers. The overall goal of the workshops is to increase the economic vitality of rural Eastern Ontario. Smith urged members of County Council to attend, saying it was an excellent opportunity to work with Queen's University on research in the area.

Smith said that he and the County Planner Jane Tousaw had recently attended public information sessions and an open house hosted by URS Canada Inc. on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation regarding the bridge replacements proposed for the Oxtongue Lake area. Smith has been asked by Council to support businesses in the area by monitoring the economic impact construction will have on local tourism businesses.

Smith said that URS had indicated that they were giving due consideration to concerns raised in the community about the financial impact of the project on local business. He said he would continue to work with the company to try to encourage interim payments for losses that are experienced. Smith conceded that it would be difficult for the tourism operators to substantiate losses but confirmed that he would try to mitigate their concerns.

Algonquin Highlands Reeve Eleanor Harrison thanked Smith for the efforts made on behalf of the people in Oxtongue Lake. She confirmed that residents and park officials are concerned about the timing of bridge construction, and that it behoved Council to stay on top of the project.

Smith advised Council that one bridge will take a year to complete and the other will take two years. He spoke about a general assumption by residents that the projects would be done concurrently, but he has since learned this is not necessarily the case and construction make last as long as three years.

Smith also reported that, in continuing efforts to explore meaningful investment opportunities he has attended a number of events and workshops, including 'Economies in Transition - Leveraging your Cultural Assets for Prosperity' which ties in with the County's continuing exploration of a creative economy.

Acting in his capacity as Interim President of the Eastern On-

tario Development Commission (OEEDC), Smith said he was able to give the County some excellent exposure and interaction with Ministers, MPP's and senior government officials during a recent reception and presentations at the Ontario Investment and Trade Centre. He thanked Council for their support and the opportunity to raise the County's flag during his tenure in the position.

According to Smith interaction with Muskoka is ongoing to investigate economic spin-offs for Haliburton businesses as a result of the G8 Summit in 2010.

As President of OEEDC, Smith also participated in their regular Board meeting and AGM. During the meetings he said that Major Fernandes of 8 Wing CFB Trenton announced that \$1.2 billion dollars would be spent on the base over the next few years to complete upgrades to deploy and service new aircraft and provide training facilities. Smith said that this is the first investment in the base in 43 years and projects will include a section dealing with aerospace. According to Smith Eastern Ontario companies will have an opportunity to bid and participate in the project.

Smith also reported that James Lynne, a senior manager with the Ministry of Tourism will be making a presentation to the Economic Development and Tourism committee in February. The presentation on tourism investment will look at methods of evaluating local business operations and making recommendations on how they can become more appealing.

Smith said his department had also attended a workshop presented by the Ontario Economic Development Council (EDCO) to look at local economies in transition. Smith has been successful in promoting updates to the department's website which is timely as he added that presentations at the workshop confirmed the need for a website that conveys the County's 'investment readiness' by providing timely demographic and statistical data.

According to Smith interaction with Muskoka is ongoing to investigate economic spin-offs for Haliburton businesses as a result of the G8 Summit in 2010.

Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey mentioned the Ministry of Natural Resources' press release and dinner during the summer where a \$1.5 million dollar grant in the Harcourt sawmill previously owned and operated by Martin Lumber was announced. He said there had been no word of activity since that time, and asked Smith to follow up on the status of the project. Fearrey said, "We desperately need this type of activity."

Smith said that he had raised questions about the project, but had to date been unable to get a satisfactory response. He said he had also looked into the Eastern Ontario Development Fund. He said that the project had been funded by surplus dollars and as there are no surplus funds left, he is concerned about the future of the project. Smith agreed to pursue the matter and report back to Council.

ISAAC ASIMOV'S SUPER QUIZ

Take this Isaac Asimov's Super Quiz to a Ph.D. Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

Subject: DAY
Each answer consists of two words, and the second word is "day." (e.g., What day is today?
Answer: Christmas Day.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. In England and Canada, the first (work) day after Christmas.
Answer
2. The Christian Sabbath, observed on Sunday.
Answer
3. Feb. 2
Answer

GRADUATE LEVEL

4. She starred with Rock Hudson in "Pillow Talk."
Answer
5. A day of reckoning at the end of the world.
Answer
6. The July 14 holiday in France.
Answer

PH.D. LEVEL

7. A day designated for planting trees.
Answer
8. A day (Dec. 28) observed in commemoration of the children slain by Herod.
Answer
9. The 40th day after Easter.
Answer

ANSWERS: 1. Boxing Day. 2. Lord's Day. 3. Groundhog Day (Candlemas Day). 4. Dura Day. 5. Judgment Day. 6. Bastille Day. 7. Arbor Day. 8. Children's Day (Holy Innocents' Day). 9. Ascension Day.

SCORING:

18 points — congratulations, doctor; 15 to 17 points — honors graduate; 10 to 14 points — you're plenty smart, but no grind; 4 to 9 points — you really should hit the books harder; 1 point to 3 points — enroll in remedial courses immediately; 0 points — who reads the questions to you?

© 2008 Ken Fisher

Reprinted with permission from Barracade Books Inc. North America Syndicate Inc.

Please Adopt A Cat

We have many adults needing homes.

There is no adoption fee for adult cats that we can place in a good home.

40lbs. Mixed bird seed \$12.99
Deer Feed • Turkey Feed
Christmas Toys



The Great Haliburton Feed Co. has found homes for over 10,000 pets since 1995

(705) 457-9775

Industrial Park Rd., Haliburton Just Before The Dump

Season's Greetings

from the staff
Steve, Andrea, Brian, Jane,
Mike, Deb, Alison and Rosie

Roberts Austin Fuels Ltd.
705-457-3554



Get Comfortable With Us!

Walker's
HVAC

- High Efficiency Furnaces
- Air Conditioners
- Heat Pumps
- Indoor Air Quality Products



81 Mallard Road, Haliburton

457-2375 1-866-457-2375 www.walkershvac.com

Make Someone's Christmas!



**Laptops
from \$499**

DELL REGISTERED PARTNER

We Service What We Sell.

Business solutions & High Speed Internet .
Coming Soon. Wireless High Speed Anywhere!

Minden
Tel: 705-255-1111
Fax: 705-255-1112
www.minden.com

Phone:
(705) 255-1111

SOFTWARE & SUPPORT

Hot Times in Halcyon

Beware and Be Wise When Purchasing for Spouse



Terrance Gavan
Staff Reporter

JC Penney is currently running a five minute spot called "Beware of the Doghouse" on YouTube and it's gone viral.

With close to two million hits, the pandemic anti-ad from the fertile, flogging and flagging noggins of Penney's ad driven scribbling anti-christs reminds men that there are boundaries of taste extant on a wife's wish, dish and go fish Christmas list.

The ad begins with a man being led to a large doghouse after his spouse opens - to much fanfare, shudder, shock and awe - a gaily-wrapped vacuum cleaner as an anniversary gift. He is led to a paint-peeled and forlorn doghouse in the middle of a barren field.

Here we find that the spooky canine abode, like Dr Who's multi-dimensional call box, is actually a portal to parallel planet. Wifey pushes hubby inside. He drops blithe and blank from doghouse door into tunnel and lands unceremoniously on a large bundle of laundry. The baying of hounds is heard rebounding off cement-bunkered walls. He falls from grimy grace into an Abu Graib-like dungeon where other men of mute-gender are fluffing, folding and filing a seeming endless array of clothes.

We are then treated to a corresponding - and ironically redundant - laundry list of flashbacks from his similarly banished junkyard mates. Men of poor taste and presumably low morals. Men guilty of major crimes and misdemeanors. In one

poignant flashback, a man reminisces about his crank with doghouse destiny. In the video reenactment he is depicted pulling a cookie from his wife's mouth and with a jaunty Merry Christmas hands her "The Gift". She opens the jauntily wrapped package only to discover - shriek, shudder and shiver - a thigh master. Another man admits to giving his wife 100 gigs of Ram for her laptop, attached to a card that said simply "Happy Birthday. Thanks for the memory."

There's more, but you get the idea. JC Penney is really flogging a "diamonds as a girl's best friend" thematic guide to gifting. There is a premise here that these men are caricatures. Surely men, galvanized by years of Gloria Steinham and Germaine Greer know better. As with all satire, the JC Penney ad is funny because it harbors, close to the rocky reef of its textured nuance that spark of truth, that soupcon of reality.

It brought me back to my days at the Halcyon Packet and Times and a colleague and news reporter Shallow Murphy-Ericsson, who was married to a local seed farmer Sondur Ericsson. Shallow and Sondur had two kids, and I always thought the two were pretty happy.

Shallow had come late to writing. She approached our editor Lorne Bjornson two years into my tenure as sports editor and feature writer for the Manitoba publication and applied for a vacant reporter's position. She was 36, had a background in agriculture, a BA in fine arts, was well-read and - added bonus for Lorne who was always looking for an edge on local council affairs - her father-in-law Bergthor Ericsson was a 20-year veteran councilor for the Rural Municipality of Reykjavik. Bergthor and Sondur were staunch pragmatists with a Puritan work ethic.

Shallow was brought up Irish Catholic and she danced through life with a gypsy's soul.

It was three weeks before Christmas back in 1991.

Shallow sashayed into the Packet and Times.

"It's arrived," she said, matter of factly.

"What's arrived?" I asked.

"My Christmas gift, wrapped and under the tree, and it's huge," said Shallow, the hint of a sardonic smile slowly shading that lively and pixied visage.

"Wow, it's early," I said. "Is Sondur always this efficient?"

"Efficient, hmmm that's a good word ... and yes, it will probably, considering historical data, and my seven year legacy of thoughtful and well-planned gift-getting, be quite efficient," said Shallow, eyes suddenly lit by what I can only assume was a quick synaptic burst of reticent recollections.

"What do you think it is?" I asked, intrigued by that little twinkle in her always bright eyes.

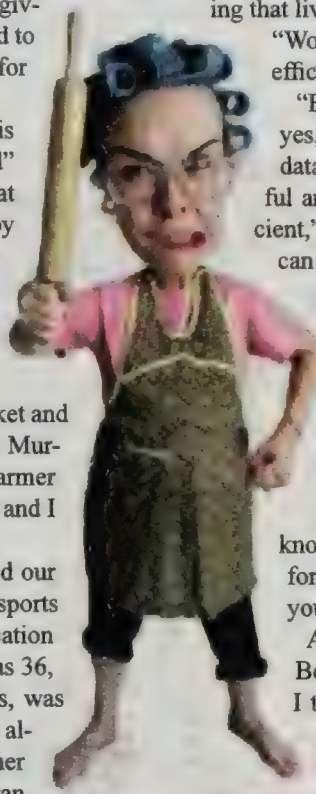
"Well, I picked it up and it weighs about 50 pounds and when you shake it, it rattles," laughed Shallow. "And to answer your question, I have no idea what it is. I know it's not a bracelet, or a watch, or a comforter. Efficient! Hah, Terrance, good word, you should be a writer."

And then she danced away. "I've got School Board meeting to cover."

I thought no more about it until she popped into my house with her two kids, Paddy and Seamus on Christmas Day. She brought some Christmas Pudding and I

gave the boys their gifts, matching hockey helmets, CSA approved.

I remembered the meeting three weeks hence. "So what was it?" I asked excitedly.



Buying for spouses cont'd... pg. 21...

**May All Creatures Great & Small, Everywhere in The Land Experience
The True Magic & Spirit of Christmas Throughout The Year!**



From everyone at CURRY MOTORS LIMITED

The Doghouse and Splits Ville in RM of Reykjavik

... from pg. 20

"What was what?" asked Shallow, who seemed just a little disconnected.

"The fifty pound package that rattled," I said.

"Oh that, yes I almost forgot that I told you," said Shallow suddenly enveloped by laughter.

"I got a sump pump, a Wellpoint 8.5 horsepower model with a 5 year parts and labour warranty," she said, the eyes darting suddenly heavenward.

"No really, what did you get?"

Really," I asked.

"Really. A sump pump," said Shallow, and the eyes were now somehow not so bright. "It's blue, my favourite color, and it is, hmm, quite efficient."

I've never been tagged as an overly sensitive guy and I have been known to leave gift-hunting to the final 83 minute Christmas Eve dash, dive, and dodgy dukes' up dangle, but I was pretty mortified. Geezuz, a sump pump. I almost blurted "I'm so sorry" but thought better of it. I just smiled wanly.

And then she laughed. "Look what are you doing on January 15th? Because, Paddy Seamus and I are moving into a little farmhouse on the Sunderson Line just outside of town and we're going to need some help moving."

I nodded, color draining from my face. "Hey Mr. Efficient, don't look so crestfallen, have you checked the Canadian marriage survival stats lately? It'll be fun ... Lorne is going to be there and he's promised to bring the Pizza."

The 15th was a Saturday and we had five staff from the paper and I had recruited my cousin's three ton truck.

It had snowed a prairie pile the night before and there was a huge drift blocking the entrance to the 35 yard driveway to the small bungalow. "We'd better call Leif Redson and tell him to get his plow out here."

Shallow was on it. "Nope, no problem," she said, pointing to her pickup truck.

"Lorne, under the tarp, my Second Anniversary present from Sondur, a 15 horsepower, 18-inch sweep John Deere snow-blower ... Terrance you do the honors, I think you find it 'quite efficient,'" laughed Shallow, blue eyes sparking.

The drift cleared in record time, we made it halfway up the wooded drive only to find our path blocked by a wind-topped oak.

"Aha," laughed Shallow. She hopped into the back of the three-ton and came out brandishing a shiny 1.9 horse, 16 inch bar Stihl chainsaw. "Christmas 1989, but it didn't come in blue," laughed Shallow, warming to the accumulating tasks. "Terrance, will you do the honors?"

Inside Shallow moved with precision. "We'll need to hang these pictures and assemble these shelves," said Shallow. And from out of a box appeared as if by magic a brand new 18-Volt, dual battery Makita drill and reciprocating saw set.

"Luckily, Makita already comes in blue" chuckled Shallow. "Oh yeah ... birthday gift, 1990," chuckled Shallow.

"Wait, before you hang that shelf, use this stud-finder ... stocking stuffer Christmas 1988," said Shallow, flipping the gizmo to Lorne who was wielding a huge 18 ounce Stanley hammer. "Love this hammer Shallow," said Lorne.

"Fifth anniversary gift, it's a beaut' ain't it?" shouted Shallow.

"One last thing guys, anyone know anything about plumbing?" asked Shallow and all

eyes swivelled to my cousin Thor Gudmundson, who ran "Gudmundson's Sink or Swim Plumbing" in Halcyon.

"It's just that the sump pump is on its last legs and I figured what the hell," said Shallow.

Thor had "Christmas 1991" a bright blue Wellpoint 8.5 horsepower model sump pump - with the 5 year parts and labor warranty - installed and running in 45 minutes flat.

We sat down before a roaring fire, logs split courtesy of a beautiful Woodsmen Model 911 limbing axe. "Ah, that axe?" said Shallow. "Hmmm, oh yes, 4th Anniversary, came with a blue leather cover."

The boys were playing ball hockey in the driveway. Lorne and I had just finished installing the Sears 2.1 horsepower garage door opener and it worked like a charm. "Christmas 1987," said Shallow.

As things were winding down and people were getting ready to leave Shallow turned to my cousin.

"Oh Thor, you might want to stop by Sondur's on the way home," she said, smiling slightly.

"Only, just before we left with the final load, I noticed about 3 inches of water on the basement floor and I think that maybe that old sump pump has finally given up the ghost."

The room suddenly erupted.

Lorne Bjornson couldn't contain himself.

"You might consider stopping at the shop and picking up a pump ... might I suggest a Wellpoint 8.5 horsepower, with the 5 year parts and labor."

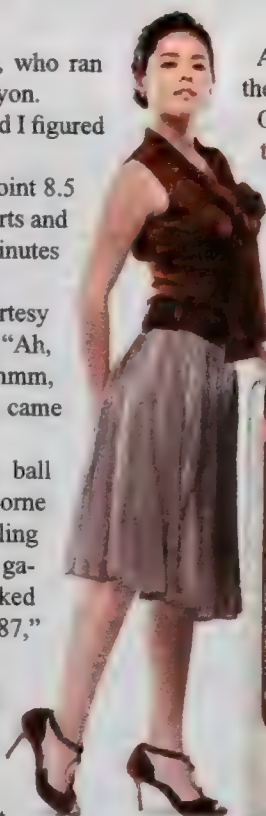
The room was suddenly filled with gales of laughter. I knew then that Shallow and the boys would be just fine.

I got a Christmas card from Shallow about 5 years ago. She remarried and is writing for a small paper just outside of Victoria BC.

In the card was a picture of a beautiful gold locket that opened to a picture of her two boys Paddy and Seamus.

The card said only. "Merry Christmas Terrance. By the way ... like the locket? A gift for my first anniversary. Not very efficient, but it'll do."

*Thank you to all clients and friends.
Wishing you a healthy, peaceful Christmas
& A Happy New Year.*
from
Tracey Howe & Gina Belli
**GINA'S
SHEAR TALENT**



And as I hung the card on my mantle I remembered the smile.

Oh, and I looked under tree and made a mental note to return the five Handy Happy Handless Ergonomic Snow Shovels with wheels that I had recently and efficiently purchased for various members of my family.

My bad. And thank you JC Penney for that gentle noggin nudge and burp back to bumpy earth.

(To find the JC Penney video just Google "JC Penney / Doghouse Video")■



Point in Time
Centre for Children, Youth and Parents

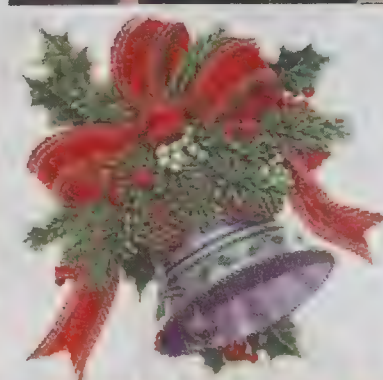
Wishing Everyone
A Happy
Holiday
Season

457-5345

Merry Christmas!



From
Shirley,
Jen,
Robyn
& Bryan



Heads Up Hairstylists
457-2263
15 Cedar Ave
Haliburton

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year
from the crew at

**CHURKO
ELECTRIC**
ECRA - ESA # 7003932

office: 457-4576
fax: 457-1494
e-mail: steve@churkoelectric.com

Singer, Songwriter and Artist Extraordinaire

After Over 27 Years in the Making, Gord Kidd's "The Twinkle Patrol" Released

Mark Arike

Staff Reporter

Gord Kidd finds himself continually adding items on to his "bucket list".

A bucket list is exactly what it sounds like. It's a list of things a person wants to accomplish or experience before "kicking the bucket".

Many people in Haliburton County recognize Kidd from his work in the community as a Hearing Instrument Specialist. He has offices in both Minden and Haliburton where he performs hearing tests and fits clients with hearing aids. He has been offering these services in the area since 1989.

Kidd moved from Lakefield, Ontario to the Highlands in that same year, but he was familiar with the area long before he settled here.

"I used to always come up here to canoe, camp and spend time with friends at a cottage in the area," explained Kidd in an interview with The Voice from his home in Haliburton. "I also spent winters up here to go camping in Algonquin Park. I've always loved the place."

Shortly after he became certified to work in his field, Kidd decided to move even after his colleagues advised against it.

"I couldn't think of anywhere I'd rather work than in Haliburton County. All my colleagues said 'you're crazy, there's no nose or throat specialists there and there isn't a large population.'"

Kidd has never regretted the decision he made. In fact, he says he's been able to run as successful of a practice as those in a larger city do.

What led Kidd to becoming a hearing instrument specialist was his passion for music. In the past, he spent five years touring Europe as a member of the group Geysir from Iceland.

"We went to Belgium, Scotland, Luxemburg, Germany,



France, Denmark, Sweden, Finland," said Kidd. "In total we went to nine countries."

And even today, he's actively involved in writing songs, recording and performing. With a few friends he entertains residents of local nursing homes weekly pro bono and he also tours around the county playing shows in his rock band 50/50.

In addition to having a great ear for music, Kidd expresses himself as a talented artist through a couple of other mediums.

When touring through his home, you'll notice that the walls are covered with murals that he's made. Some of his earliest paintings – which hang in his home today – were painted when he was only 11 years old.

"I won awards for them," he explained. "I always had art in me."

Acting is also a form of expression Kidd has managed to fit into his busy schedule. In fact, he's been a part of local theatre in a number of plays including: Camelot, The Book, A Key For Two and most recently he played Pedro in The Man of La-

mache.

With Kidd's recent release of "The Twinkle Patrol" – a children's book that he wrote and made illustrations for – it's evident that he's an enthusiastic and imaginative writer.

Twinkle Patrol was first published over 27 years ago, but before the book was started, Kidd wrote and produced a play titled "Efil" (life spelt backwards) in Port Hope. The play was written for a youth group to depict the struggles that children may go through while on their way to adulthood.

At a showing of this play, a film producer associated with CBC happened to be in the audience.

"They approached me asked if I would write more of a full script," said Kidd.

In doing so, he created the script for "To Carry the Rabbit". The script tells a story about a sensitive boy who has a macho-type father. In an attempt to toughen up his son, the father asks him to carry dead rabbits for him on a hunting trip.

CBC was interested in developing the story further, but first requested changes in the script. For Kidd, altering the story wasn't something that he was prepared to do.

"I just can't change what I think is written in honesty," he said.

As a result of opposing the changes, the agent he submitted his work to decided to drop him immediately, citing that Kidd was "difficult to deal with."

In 1982, Kidd began working on The Twinkle Patrol. His daughter Angela, who was seven-years old at the time, was the inspiration behind the book.

"Angela said, 'dad, can you write something for me? You've written all these songs, everywhere you go you're playing for people, you're organizing things...can you do something for me?'"

Angela was always supportive of her dad. She often accompanied him to gigs he played and other events he attended. Inside of The Twinkle Patrol, you'll notice that Kidd has dedicated the book to Angela and the Baha'i faith that he is a part of.

When the book was first copy written in 1982, it was released as a large and colourful poster-book. Once read, the book unfolded out into an 8' x 4' poster that children could put on the wall. This concept was received well by schools and libraries across Canada.

Gord cont'd... pg. 23....



Wishing
Everyone
Happy
Holidays

Cordell

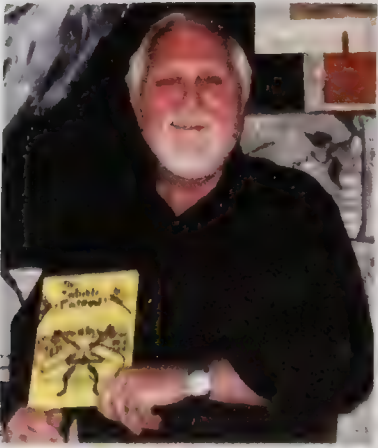
CARPET

County Road 21, Beer Store Plaza, Haliburton.

457-2022

Seasons Greetings
from everyone at
Country Rose
More than Just
a Flower Shop!
Corner of Cty Rd 21 &
Industrial Pk. Rd - Haliburton
457-3774

Gord Kidd - "When I'm doing art or writing there's no such thing as time or space."



... from pg. 22

But when it came time to produce the poster book, an unforeseen mishap occurred. Ink from the small print that had to be enlarged to fit on the 8' x 4' poster

bled which caused some letters to run into one another.

Due to this mistake, one of the characters in the book known as "Flit" had its name appear as a profane four letter word that also starts with F. A parent group noticed the book in a library and they were outraged. Within a month, all copies of The Twinkle Patrol were pulled off shelves and orders were cancelled.

Shortly thereafter, famous Canadian author and short story writer Margaret Laurence saw Kidd's poster book and sent him positive comments on his work. In recognizing how significant this feedback was Kidd sent a letter to Laurence to thank her and also ask her for permission in using the written statement she sent him as a testimonial to help promote the book.

Laurence responded by kindly letting Kidd know that he couldn't publish her comments on his material. It was a favour she wouldn't do for anyone. Her letter also stated: "All writers are on their own."

After incurring so many stumbling blocks, Kidd decided to just put the book away.

"I was so frustrated that I just shelved it," he said.

In 2007, Connie Neil, a hearing patient of Kidd's, read the manuscript for The Twinkle Patrol. Her words encouraged Kidd to finish what he started so many years before.

"She said, 'get off your butt, do your own artwork and get this out as a book!'" said Kidd. "Connie actually made it happen."

Kidd took Connie's advice to heart and this month the final product was released in Haliburton County and beyond.

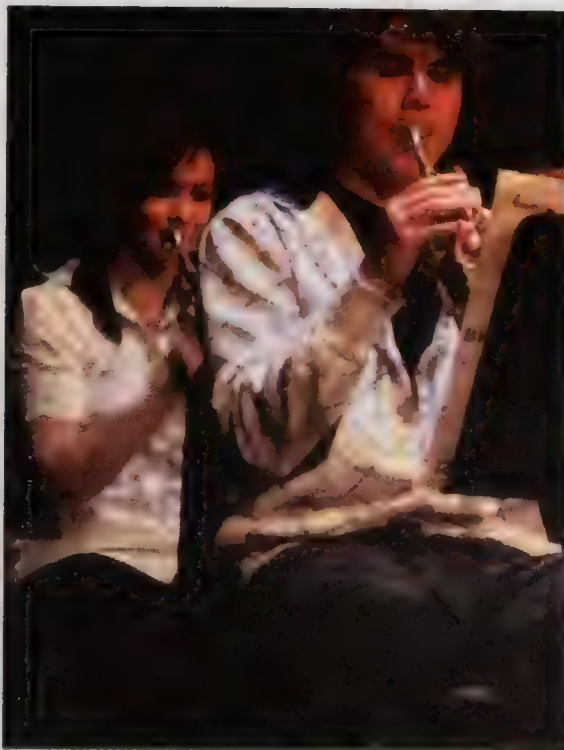
So what is it about creating that Kidd finds so fulfilling?

"When I'm doing art or writing there's no such thing as time or space," he explained. "You are totally lost in it and it's as if nothing else exists. If you're into this stuff you're able to tap into something that's bigger than you."

And though Kidd considers his life one that has been "so full", surprisingly enough there still are a few things left to complete on his bucket list.

"I want to skydive, run from my Haliburton office to my Minden office and I want to go on a pilgrimage to Israel with my wife Kathryn."

The Twinkle Patrol can be found at various locations in the county including: The Store Room, Minden Book & Stationary, Teddy Time, Masters Books, Undercover Books and Agnew's General Store in Wilberforce. ■



Full Theatre for HHSS Music Students

Christmas Concert Gets Everyone into the Joyful Spirit

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) music students led by Tom Regina were jamming to the sounds of the holiday season at this winter's Christmas Concert held on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at the

Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion.

Groups of performers at the evening show included the guitar class, a grade nine class and the Red Hawk jazz ensemble. ■



V&S
Your Hometown Values
& Savings Store

**Crafts 'n
More...**

**Open
Boxing
Day!**

December 26,
2008

**Men's
Flannel
Sleep Pant**
Reg. 9.97

Save 60%
3.97

Copier Paper

8.5" x 11".
500 sheets per pack.
552-3010

2.97



Folgers Coffee

Mountain roast 975 g, classic roast 920 g
or decaf 642 g.

579-1046/7/51

Your
choice!

5.97

**Windshield Washer
Fluid**

3.78 litres.
Good to -35°.
041-6347

2.00

**Charmin Bathroom
Tissue**

Ultra Soft
8 Double
Rolls
634-1048

5.00

**30%
OFF**

**All Ladies'
& Men's
Clothing**

**Hurry in
for the best
selection!**

**All Christmas
Decorations
& Wrap**

75% OFF

**All Christmas
Lights**

50% OFF

Haliburton (across from the IGA) 457-2715 • Family Owned and Operated

Store Hours:

Monday to Thursday & Saturday: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm • Sunday: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm



Help Us Find an Orphan



The search has started for an orphan girl. She is about eleven years of age (could be a little older), has a pleasant disposition, likes dogs, sings and maybe does a little dancing. Her name is Annie.

Highlands Summer Festival and Director Scot Denton are looking for a talented young girl to play the role of an orphan in this summer's production of Annie. "This is a great opportunity for a youngster, who has an interest in acting and singing, to land the role of a lifetime," director Denton said. "We are looking for someone who is outgoing, confident, 'spunky' and is

prepared to work hard over the next six months to take the lead in this production."

The musical Annie is based on the cartoon strip, "Little Orphan Annie", which followed the adventures of a young girl searching for her parents. Filled with bouncy tunes and a great story, the musical received rave reviews when it opened on Broadway in 1977 and ran for almost six years.

Auditions for Annie and the orphan girls (ranging in age 6 to 13) will take place on January 17. Those not chosen for the role of Annie could be cast as one of the chorus of young girls at the orphanage. Call-backs will be held on January 18. On the weekend of January 24 and 25, auditions will be held for other characters appearing in Annie including:

Oliver (Daddy) Warbucks: A billionaire who opens his home and heart to Annie

Miss Hannigan: The cantankerous and hilarious orphanage matron

Grace Farrell: Oliver Warbucks' faithful Secretary

Rooster: Miss Hannigan's scheming brother

Lily St. Regis: Rooster's not-so-dumb, blonde accomplice

President Franklin D. Roosevelt: President who aides Warbucks in his search

Bert Healey: Radio announcer who broadcasts Annie's search for her parents.

The Boylyn Sisters: Singers on Bert Healey's radio show

And many other Cameo roles, various ages, both genders

Those attending the audition should come prepared to sing one verse or

16 bars of a song from musical theatre production other than Annie. Call-backs for adult roles on January 25.

The Festival is also inviting actors to audition for the two other productions this summer, Butterflies are Free and Play On!

Auditions for these two productions will be held on Saturday, January 24, with call-backs on Sunday, January 25. These two comedies require fourteen players aged early twenties through to sixties in both genders. The characters include:

Butterflies are Free: a romantic comedy in which a young man attempts to escape the overbearing influence of his mother. The cast includes:

Don: Young man early 20's

Jill: Free-spirited hippie, late teens

Mrs. Baker: Don's protective mother

Ralph Austin: A director friend of Jill's

Play On!: The story of a community theatre company as it attempts to mount a production, despite the constant interference



Annie

of the playwright and infighting among cast and crew. The cast includes: (Some of the roles can be played by either a man or a woman)

Aggie Marville: A stage manager and prompter

Geraldine "Gerry" Dunbar: A community theatre director

Henry Benish: An aging character actor, 60

Polly Benish: An aging character actress, 60

Marla "Smitty" Smith: A young actor just starting out in her career, 17

Saul Watson: actor, a villain, 45

Billy Carewe: an athletic young man of spirit, 25

Violet Imbry: The not too bright

Ingénue, 22

Louise Perry: a sound and lighting technician, 35

Phyllis Montague: A novice playwright in the community

"It is the Highlands Summer Festival's tenth season," executive producer Betty Mills noted. "We are looking forward to giving as many people as possible the opportunity to be on stage this year, so I encourage everyone who has an interest in live theatre to consider auditioning for a role."

The Festival is also looking for individuals to assist backstage. In pre-production work there is a need for carpenters, painters, seamstresses and others to help before the shows hit the stage. The Festival is also looking for people interested in backstage work including stage managers, assistant stage manager, stage hands, technicians, etc. "If you have always been interested in live theatre, this is the year to be a part of the Highlands Summer Festival cast or crew," Mills suggested.

To book an audition time and more information, contact Betty Mills at 457-1354. Call the same number if you are interested in assisting with off-stage duties. ■

Season's Greetings
from Linda
and Ashley

travel★plus

201 Highland St.
Haliburton 457-3290

Wishing you a holiday
packed with good wishes
& our sincere thanks!
Best wishes to all.

HALCO ELECTRONICS
457-1590 Haliburton

THE SOURCE

Haliburton Crane

* Boom Trucks
* 50 Ton - 80 Ton AT

1-800-663-2405
or visit www.ecshaliburton.com

Happy Holidays To You...
From Us At
Ryan Reed Property Maintenance

Winter Services Available.
Call for Estimate **705-754-3625**



Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

On Dec. 23, 1912, Keystone Pictures releases its first "Keystone Kop" movie, "Hoffmeyer's Release." The Keystone Kops films were silent,

black-and-white movies starring a crew of bumbling policemen who bumped into and fell over each other in a frenetic sequence of slapstick gags.

On Dec. 24, 1923, President Calvin Coolidge touches a button and lights up the first national Christmas tree to grace the White House grounds. The tree was also the first to be decorated with electric lights. The tradition has been repeated with every administration since then.

On Dec. 25, 1884, Mr. Layne Hall of Silver Creek, N.Y., is born. At his death on Nov. 20, 1990, he had a valid driver's license. He was 105 years old, making him the oldest legal driver ever.

On Dec. 26, 1966, the first day of the first Kwanzaa is celebrated in Los Angeles. The seven-day holiday, which has strong African roots, was designed as a celebration of African-American family, community and culture.

On Dec. 27, 1979, in an attempt to stabilize the turbulent political situation in Afghanistan, the Soviet Union sends 75,000 troops to enforce the installation of Babrak Karmal as the new leader of the nation. The new government and the Soviet presence, however, had little success. The Soviet intervention cost Russia dearly. The seemingly endless civil war in Afghanistan resulted in thousands of Soviet dead and untold monetary costs.



SBES Students Put On a Class Act

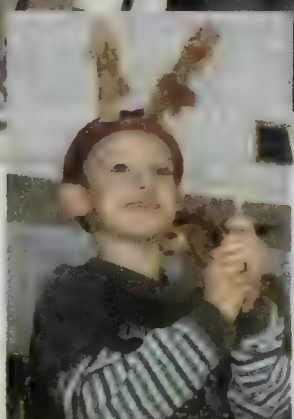
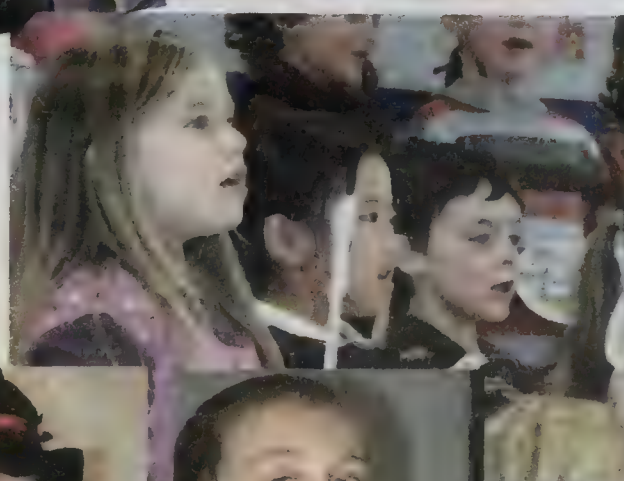
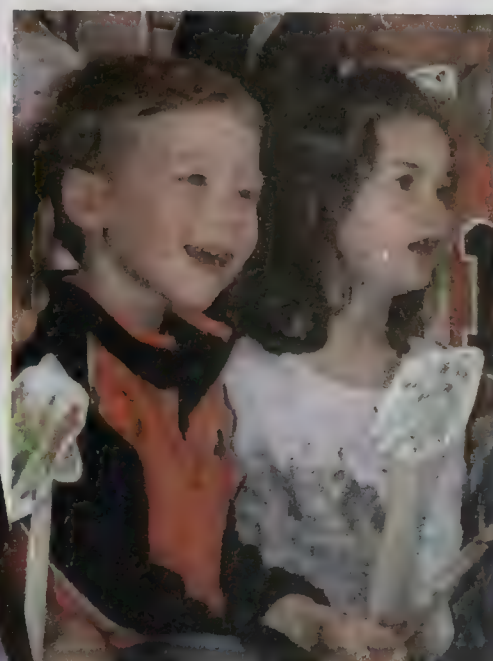
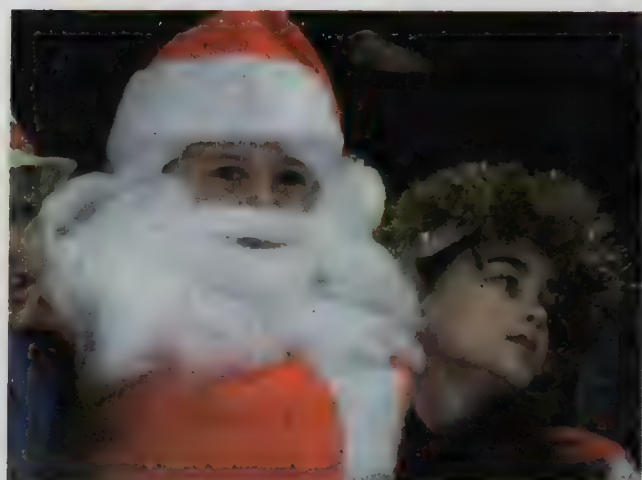
Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

A Cheerful Christmas Concert For Family and Friends

Stuart Baker Elementary School (SBES) was just a little busier than on a regular afternoon last Thursday and Friday, as families congregated inside the gymnasium for the annual Christmas concert. Parents and relatives in the hundreds turned out to see Haliburton's youngest students perform.

Students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade Three participated in the show that featured song, dance, poetry and acting skits.

At the concert, school principal Mme. France Meunier thanked parents and the entire student body for making her first year at SBES a rewarding and memorable one. ■



**BOXING
WEEK
BLOWOUT**

**40%
OFF**

**All Reg Priced
Christmas
Decorations
and Toys**

**Home
hardware
building centre**

**MINDEN
HOME HARDWARE
BUILDING CENTRE**

16 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden

286-1351



Rails End Presents "Down Memory Lane" Over 40 Years of History on Display

The history of the arts in Haliburton County in some measure starts with volunteer art exhibits organized back in the early 1960s at the Christian Education Centre of the Carnarvon United Church, as it was then called. The "Highlands of Haliburton Art Group" exhibited paintings, sculpture, ceramics, handicrafts, and line drawings over two days in August. Those exhibits led to the Summer Sale of Arts and Crafts in 1962, and eventually to the decision taken at a meeting at Jan Augusteijn's home on April 6th, 1967, to establish the Haliburton Highlands Guild of Fine Arts. In October of that year the Guild was formally incorporated: 12 years later the Rails End Gallery would be opened in a grand ceremony with Don Popple as Master of Ceremonies, officiated by then Reeve Murray Fearrey.

The Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre is commemorating some of this history for the



Above: Carole Finn one of the Rails End founders, pictured in the 1980's.

Upper left: Some of the old railway station artifacts.



next month in a fascinating exhibit entitled "Down Memory Lane: the Rails End Gallery Archives Project." This archival project has been a two year labour of love for many Rails End volunteers, and provides an essential portion of the history of the arts in the County. It details, for example, the first formal mention of an arts school for the area, at one of the early Guild meetings. And it shows just how deep the artistic and community roots the Guild, and later the Gallery are in the Highlands.

With the support of the Haliburton Highlands County Development Corporation and the Volunteer Committee of the Rails End, the work began two years ago as Volunteer Lee Anne Goodall began the arduous task of sorting through 40 years of history. The Gallery "archives" were stored in bankers' boxes in the basement of the Gallery. After the initial work of sorting and cataloguing Lee Anne was joined by volunteers Maija Stone, Karen Duncombe, and Mary Hastings. Carol Moffatt acted as a mentor and consultant during the early days. Her main advice to the group was "Find a system and stick to it", which, as Rails End Executive Director Laurie Jones comments, was "a maxim that proved challenging to adhere to at times."

"Even more challenging was the conditions under which the group found itself. There is no headroom in the cellar of the Gallery, and it was very dusty and cold down there. After several cellar sessions, where the volunteers used wheeled steno chairs to move around, and wore their woollies to stay warm, all agreed it was absolutely necessary to move the boxes upstairs."

And where did the boxes end up? "Believe it or not, in the washroom next to our Gallery office marked PRIVATE. Volunteer and former Board Member Keith Rydberg fashioned a cupboard in the small space, which quickly filled up, and then the sink was used (the washroom was closed to the public during this time!)"

"The committee then decided to use Mondays, when the Gallery was closed, to sort all the boxes, using folding tables in the Highland Gallery. It was decided to sort by year, and topic. The volunteers were soon joined by Doris Laine, a long time Gallery volunteer stalwart, Sandre Daoust, a former Board Member, and a student intern in the fall and winter of 2007, Joshua Ewart."

The volunteers worked each Monday for many many months. Laurie comments: "once sorted and categorized, the material was scoured for paperclips and the like. It was essential for all metal to be removed in order to ensure the long-term preservation of the material. The papers were then placed in acid free folders for long term storage and then into the numbered plastic bins."

In Stage Three of the project, Lee Anne Goodall completed the data entry box by box from her home. New folder labels were created and in a couple of intensive sessions all the folders were labelled by Lee Anne, Doris Laine, Maija Stone, and Sandre Daoust.

Finally, this December, the Archives Team presented Gallery Director Jones with two boxes of "material that would be of interest", and over the course of a few days Jones made the material into an accessible and highly enjoyable exhibition.

Jones comments: "feel free to examine the materials, but please do wear the gloves provided. And please, sign the Guest Book - you never know who might be looking at it some time in the future."

The "Down Memory Lane" exhibit is open from January 3rd until January 17th. The Rails End is located on York Street in Haliburton. ■



"Hello, Stu's Sign Shop? This is Santa. We seem to have a small problem."



Ho, Ho, Ho, Mer-r-r-y Kritters!

On Saturday December 13th, HART's 3rd Annual Kitter Kringle Sale, met with outstanding success! Held in Maynooth this year, as centrally located to HART's vast catchment area, many came out to support the Highland Animal Relief Team's annual fundraising event for animal welfare.

A Toonie Sale table was laden with over 120 beautiful gift items and gift certificates, donated by merchants, artisans and Friends of HART from the entire HART catchment area.

Hand thrown pottery, quilted items, handmade jewellery, Nike hoodies, candles, tools, toys, certificates for turkeys, tanning and even a framed "limited edition" Bateman print came in from Barrys Bay, Maynooth, Bancroft, Wilberforce, Haliburton, Wilno, Paudash, Ormsby and Coe Hill. Prizes were happily hefted home by many lucky winners of HART's now famous Toonie Sale Draw.

Snaps with Santa were a "hoot," as not only dogs but even love birds and parrots came out to have their pictures taken with Santa. Meese, HART's little kitten, with her foot recently amputated, could not make the day, but sent her regards to Santa, with her best Christmas wish.

A "Christmas Kash" raffle, prize \$500., was won by Wanda Kajak of Baysville Ontario. Generously, Ms. Kajak donated \$100. back to HART, for the region's animals in despair.

The Kringle Kafe served homemade soup, sammies and sweets to a hungry crowd. Hot mulled cider was served to warm the hearts of all who attended. The strong spirit and support for HART's good work was evident in every smiling face.

Best Dressed Christmas Pet, brought down the house! Beagles in Santa suits, Mastiffs in ribbons, Westies in jingle bells and Cocker spaniels as reindeer, all entertained us with their excellent show of Christmas spirit.

Funding for HART, a registered charity, serving the region since 1995, is an ongoing challenge for our volunteers. Rescuing stray, injured and abused dogs comes with a price tag. A corps of dedicated HART volunteers has worked throughout the years to create necessary funds, while sacrificing many hours of personal time and resources.

Feline need is supported with HART's Spay/Neuter Incentive Program, "SNIP," offering subsidized low-cost spay/neuter vaccines, for all in the region willing to take stray animals into their homes. Initiated in 2005, this worthy program has now spayed/neutered/vaccinated over 800 of the region's dogs and cats. The only solution to the never ending stream of stray, suffering dogs, cats and kittens, is spay/neuter. HART works endless hours to fund SNIP's good work, one of only a few such programs in all of Ontario.

HART could not be, without the ongoing support of people who care. The veterinarian expertise offered by Drs. Ann Rankin, Barrys Bay, Satinder Singh, Bancroft and Laurie Brown and Joan Grant, Haliburton, keep our furry HARTs beating, throughout the year. The great rescue spirit of these veterinarian practitioners validates the significance of HART's worthy work. Thank you honourable Doctors, for all that you give!

To all the good Friends of HART, the regional merchants and artisans, HART sends grateful thanks for your harty support. Far too many to mention here, your personal thankyou's/receipts, will follow by mail.

Please visit the HART website to learn more, www.hartanimalrelief.ca

HART Kritters Meet Santa



Happy Holidays

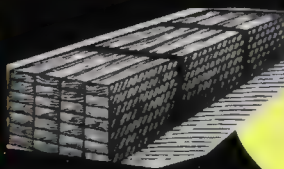
Everyone at Minden Home Hardware Wishes YOU...

all the best this holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year!



Home hardware

Building Centre



Minden Home hardware Building Centre
286-1351

Fax 705-286-4544

Bobcaygeon Rd, Minden



Quirks and Quarks Bob McDonald Visits Hal High Class

Terrance Gavan
Staff Reporter

For the past 15 years CBC Radio's Bob McDonald has been on a quiet and quaintly quixotic quest for quirky quarks.

And for the past 15 years, the entertaining, engaging and charming host of the popular CBC Radio program Quirks and Quarks (Saturdays at 12 noon) has been answering the same question.

"So Bob ... exactly what are these quirks ... and quarks?"

And McDonald just smiles. He's answered this particular question more times than he probably cares to remember. But he kindly acquiesces. Affable, easy-going and obliging, McDonald is as polished one-on-one as he is on radio talking to the million or so listeners that tune in to his show on a weekly basis via web, pod or waves.

"Well ... a quirk is anything that's odd and we like quirky stories on the show. You'd have to admit that a show on the sex life of a nematode is pretty quirky material," laughs McDonald. "And a quark? It's the smallest thing we know of. Beneath the atom and beneath the proton, you come to quarks and the quarks are the one thing we cannot break apart. We've smashed the atom and crashed the proton but we can't break quarks. At least not yet."

Oh, and one other pretty significant fact. The show itself was started by this pretty quirky science prof at the University of British Columbia. "A guy you may have heard of," laughs McDonald. "Suuuzzzuuki?"

He purposely draws the last name out, a grin punctuating the final syllable. The eyes uplift and the wink is implied. Quirks and Quarks is embarking on its 23rd season. Before McDonald grabbed the reins in 1992, Jay Ingram held court (for seven

years), and in the beginning, yes, the show was indeed hosted by Canada's favorite garrulous guru, the irrepressible David Suzuki.

"The story goes that they (Suzuki and company) came up with the name over drinks," says McDonald. "I think it's the best name in radio." One thing can't be denied. Both words garner boffo points when placed strategically on a Scrabble triple word square. McDonald could probably tell you exactly how

ing the most fun here. The teacher or the students. In the video clip McDonald and the other assorted Vomit Comet riders are literally treading on air, the pilots maneuvering in ever-increasing pendulums simulating Mars gravity (about one third of earth's pull), the moon's gravity (one-sixth of earth's), and finally the zero g freedom of deep space.

And the video over, smiles and giggles receding, McDonald delivers the students back to earth with a bump on the learning curve.

"These are some of the things I get to do," says McDonald. Ingrained in his vibrant demonstrations is notion that science more than just foundation, fact and formula. "Science is just changing the way we look at the world ... imagine everything we know is wrong and start from there."

From the Vomit Comet McDonald moves to the environment, illustrating via the metaphor of a common jug of water just how much of the earth's water is actually potable or fit for human consumption. You would be very surprised. A paltry two

drops of potable water from a full liter jug. And just over 40 percent of that drinkable water belongs to Canada. And suddenly, lights go on in the minds of the assorted conspiracy theorists in the crowded class. Canada is the Saudi Arabia of the wet set. Somewhere, there is a novel. Somewhere an apocalyptic scenario. It adds a whole new dimension to the

notion of Canada as "hewers of wood and drawers of water."

Point made, McDonald glides quickly to a discussion of points of balance, utilizing a common everyday broomstick as part of a unique demo. He ends by balancing the broomstick vertically on his chin for 30 seconds. Not a jaundiced eye in the mix. He's killing and he knows it.

The smiles, the bright eyes, and the sudden nods, present ample evidence that Bob McDonald is imbued with a gift. He is able, through allegory, simile and metaphor to deliver a complicated message without the intimidating accoutrements. Simply, succinctly and easily, Bob McDonald knows how to bring science home to the people.

He carries with him a blow up globe and he wields it like Harry Potter's wand. He reminds the students that the first picture taken from space of our planet, a portrait simply called "Earth Rising" marked a seminal fracture in the human psyche. He holds up the globe. "That picture started the environmental movement," says McDonald. Nuff said. Point made. Solid as a quark.

And this is what Bob McDonald does best. Analogy as tool. His is an everyman's approach to science. He is remarkably at ease with his craft. A wordsmith and a one-time amateur actor who says that he brings some of that theatrical bent to his program and to his myriad speaking engagements.

He is alarmingly frank and quite self-deprecating when delineating his bona fides. Unlike Suzuki he doesn't bring a wealth of scientific letters to the table. No PhD in Physics no Masters in Biology.

"I'm actually a drop out," says McDonald. "I studied English and Philosophy in University and did a lot of acting in theater. I dropped out after second year but I've always liked science, ever since I was a kid."

Bob McDonald cont'd... pg. 29...



many points, but we'll leave that for another day.

Last Monday, (Dec 8) McDonald was in the area as part of the CBC Reads Christmas concert series and before his performance of A Christmas Carol in Minden on Monday evening he reserved some time in the afternoon to visit a group of students from several classes at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

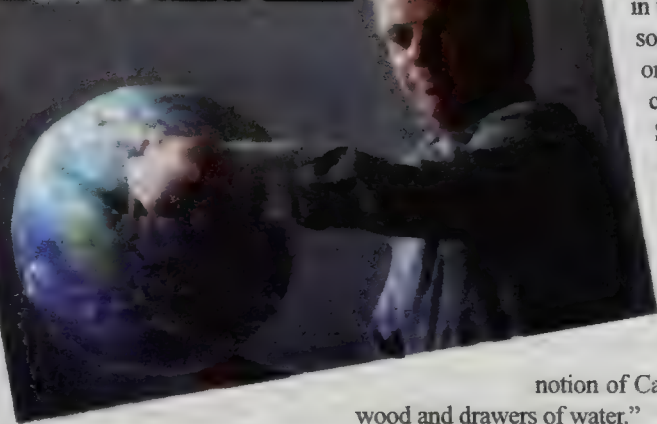
For 35 years, McDonald, a self-proclaimed science junkie, has been entrenched in this heady field. He is first and foremost a radio guy, but it's immediately evident, as he steps in front of the class at HHSS, that he is happily ensconced and at home in this milieu as well. He loves to teach and he says he especially likes talking to young people.

"These were great, the kids here today," says McDonald, in a staff room, shortly after his 45 minute presentation. "I used to do a lot more of this talking to schools, and I still like to get out and talk to young people. We've got to get to the kids and we've got to keep them interested. The young people are inheriting the earth. And they're going to be our future politicians, the future business people, and future scientists and you've got to give them a sense of hope that we can turn this thing around."

McDonald also hosts and writes a children's TV science show, Heads Up!, which runs on TVO and the Knowledge Network. He brought along a DVD of the show featuring his trip on the fabled Vomit Comet (Officially known as the Zero G flight), an airplane rollercoaster ride that simulates zero gravity by performing a series of steep climbs and deep dives. "I have always wanted to go into space," McDonald tells the class. The space ride, he laughs, is a tough nut to crack - and upcoming

Virgin Air space flights are tuning in at seven figures, way over the show's budget constraints - and so he tells the class that the Heads Up! producers banged heads and crunched beans and finally decided on the next best thing: A ride on the fabled Vomit Comet, rollicking in at a cool six grand US. Big money, but doable.

And it's hard to tell who's hav-



Wishing Everyone A Safe and Happy Holiday Season

Amelia Danks, Brittany Ellis, Camille Main, Lainey Main, Krista Patterson, Kelly King, Kyle Grove, Randy Griffin, Jennifer Lee, Janet Smith, Cheryl Lee, Claudette O'Neill, Doug O'Neil, Judy Macdonald, Anna Mawbey, Lindsay Mitchell, Sarah McCree, Ray Langford, Fred Mawbey, Don Sampson, Warren Thompson, Andrea Austin, and Craig Mulholland

Home Hardware 457-1402
HIGHLAND ST. HALIBURTON • TEL 457-1402

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Pre Christmas Sale
Save 20% on All Trimmers!

GRS CONTRACTORS RENTAL SUPPLY 457-9833
fax: 457-9829
37 Mallard Rd
Haliburton



Have a Wonderful Holiday Season!

Viceroy Homes & Cottages
Turning Dreams into Reality

12197 Hwy 35 Minden
1053 Main St. Dorset
1-888-842-3769
www.algonquinprojects.com
Algonquin Projects Limited
Independent Distributor

CBC Radio Host Opens His World to Local Students

... from pg. 28

McDonald may not possess an actual degree in rocket science, but he's no Forrest Gump either. His 'aw shucks' banter aside, watching McDonald in front of a classroom of Hal High students it is evident immediately that he is, first and foremost, cutting edge, erudite, trenchant and learned in all aspects of operational science. He knows his stuff.

In fact, Bob McDonald has been awarded many honorary degrees - the most recent being an honorary Doctorate of Science from McMaster University in June, 2008. Previously, he was awarded a Doctorate of Letters from Laurentian University in Sudbury in October, 2007. In 2005, Bob received an honorary degree from Carleton University. The university awarded him a Doctor of Laws, "In recognition of his outstanding contribution to helping the public understand and appreciate science." The University of Guelph in 2003, awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Letters.

Dr Bob was also personally honoured for his contributions to the public awareness of science with the 2001 Michael Smith Award for Science Promotion, from NSERC; and the 2002 Sandford Fleming Medal from The Royal Canadian Institute. In 2005, McDonald received the McNeil Medal for the Public Awareness of Science from the Royal Society of Canada. It's a hat trick of achievement that puts him in great demand on the lecture circuit. It has also made him the CBC's resident maestro of science and he is often called upon to offer his insights on the National and on local CBC newscasts.

But he is most at home on radio. Asked by local Canoe FM broadcaster Jack Brezina if he finds it hard to bring science to life on radio, McDonald chuckles.

"Hey, you're a broadcaster," says McDonald. "You know what we do. We make great pictures in radio. We can take you into the center of a black hole ... we can take you back to the time of the dinosaurs ... we can take you into an atom ... things that it would cost millions on television ... with a few cheap sound effects, great narration and a good storyteller ... you're there."

That's what radio is: it's the fine art of storytelling."

McDonald adds that he landed in radio by accident. "I used to work,

back in the 70s, at the Ontario Science Center in the Education Department and while I was there a friend of mine was doing some shows for Ideas on CBC radio and he asked me if I'd like to do an episode, just to try it out," says McDonald.

"I said 'I don't know how to do radio,' and he said, 'you know the material I'll show you how to make it radio.' And he introduced me to some people and we put together this program and they really liked it, so then they said: 'how'd you like to do your own series next year?' And one thing led to another."

And here Bob McDonald stops mid-interview and smiles. He says that he learned one pivotal thing very early in his career.

"When I was asked if I could do something I always said yes," chuckles McDonald. "And I've figured out that whenever opportunities come along, and they do come along to all of us, say yes, because it's amazing how quickly you learn when you're scared."

The humility is genuine. It's part of his personality and it's a trait that has stood him well in this demanding profession of broadcast journalism. He's a good listener. And he's not afraid to ask the trenchant question. He attributes that to his natural curiosity.

"I've always liked what science does but I'm not good at actually doing it ... so I'm in the best position here at CBC, where I get to play with the science and catch the excitement of it but I don't have to do it myself." And part of that job at Quirks and Quarks centers on treading a fine line between the jargon and the facts.

"My job is really to understand what it is the scientists are trying to say and to get them to say it in an understandable way," says

McDonald. It's not as easy as it sounds. For instance what do you do with the guest that just doesn't come across on radio? Sometimes he runs into the hardwired guest, the scientist who tends to rely on a lot of jargon.

"We call those tooth pullers," laughs McDonald. "I have to rely on the analogy in those interviews. Whenever you hear me say 'Let me see if I've got this right?' that's me hurting. I'm trying to relate to what the guest just said, and I'm trying very hard to spin it back."

And anyone who's heard Bob McDonald spin some very tough jargon back to comprehensibility knows one thing. This guy is good.

Bob McDonald takes nothing for granted and is well aware that he's got a great job, in fact the perfect job. He has a regimen before every interview. "Just before we go on air I will look at my reflection in the window to the control room, just to remind myself how lucky I am," says McDonald.

Lucky and blessed.

He said as much as he was wrapping up his short presentation to the gathered students in the Hal High classroom.

"Find something you really love doing ... and figure out a way to get paid for it."

And then he tore another page from his own widely diverse life.

"Travel and investigate," McDonald told the students. "Travel is the best education you can get. You see this beautiful world that we live in, but you also think about your home."

And that advice? Definitely not quirky. ■



May the Blessings of the Season and the true spirit of Christmas be with you all throughout the year.



195 Highland Street, Haliburton
In The Village Barn
457-2223



A heartfelt thank you to all our clients for their patronage this past year.

Our office will be closed from Wed. Dec. 24, 2008 to Sun. Jan. 4, 2009 (inclusive).

Wishing Everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Ray, Marilyn, Laurie, Sharon & Glenda

LAW OFFICE
Raymond Selbie & Staff

McKee Security

1496804 ONTARIO INC.



www.mckeesecurity.ca
fax: 457-4269

& Telephone Systems

457-2156

Security Systems • Camera Surveillance
Surround Sound • Home Theatre Systems
Sales and Installations

HALIBURTON
225 Highland St
457-9352

MINDEN
12621 Hwy 35
286-6618

Happy Holidays

from

SUBWAY

Have A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!



The County of Haliburton

11 Newcastle Street, Minden
705-286-1333



Devolin Announces \$125,000 in Funding for Eastern Ontario Artists

Two Haliburton Artists Chosen for "One of a Kind" Initiative

Stephen Patrick
Editor

Haliburton MP Barry Devolin announced last week that the Federal Government has awarded \$125,000 to the various Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDC) in Eastern Ontario, including the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC), to bolster what he called the "creative economy" in the region. Some of the monies have already been used for a series of Market Readiness workshops that took place in Haliburton and across Eastern Ontario in October and November.

In addition, Devolin announced the names of 24 artists from the huge Eastern Ontario Region (roughly defined as

Lake Simcoe to the Ottawa River, and from Lake Ontario north to Algonquin Park) who will be given the opportunity to showcase and sell their works in a special showcase at the prestigious "Spring 2009 One of a Kind Show" to be held April 1st to 5th at Exhibition Place in Toronto. The One of a Kind Show is Canada's most important show for what's known as Fine Craft, and represents a great opportunity for the 24 artists. They were chosen from 125 applicants from all over the region. The two Haliburton artists selected are Textile Artist and Graphic Designer Sandi Luck, and Sculptor Charles O'Neil.

In making the announcement Devolin mentioned that when he grew up in Haliburton, "I thought it was perfectly normal for a small town to have an art school, a gallery, and to be invaded every summer by a mob of crazy artists every summer. It was only when I moved away did I realize how unique our community is, and how important artists and artisans are to its diversity and to its economy."

"We really have the best of both worlds here," said Devolin, "with the advantages of small town, rural life combined with the urban sophistication that something like the Sculpture Forest and the School for the Arts provides. Community Futures is such a successful program in that decisions about how the monies are used aren't made by some remote Ottawa bureaucrat: those decisions are made at the community level. Local artists and artisans not only enrich our lives, expand our minds, and make us question conventional wisdom, they also make a vital economic contribution to our communities."

The Market Readiness workshops were conducted by Artist and Teacher Paul Portelli, a long-time fixture at Fleming's School of the Arts, and was co-ordinated by the HCDC's Jim



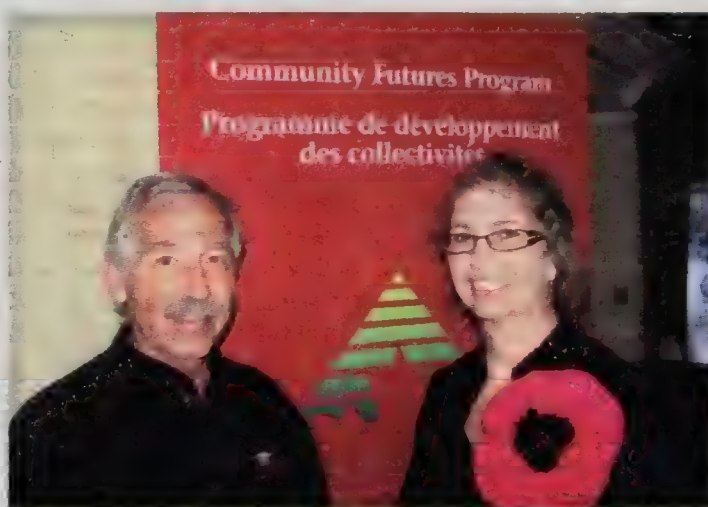
Blake, who commented that "one of the challenges we face is getting artists' work to the marketplace, and creating an export market for our artisans. To be in a special section of the "One of a Kind" show is a great opportunity, and to have Paul travelling throughout Eastern Ontario giving the workshops was very important." HCDC Vice-Chair Barb Bolin also thanked MP Devolin for exhibiting an understanding of the importance of artists to our economy and emphasized again just how great an opportunity the "One of a Kind" show is.

In fact there was a distinctly Haliburton feel to the entire enterprise, with Bolin and Blake having played central roles for years in the Haliburton art scene, and Portelli also having a long and deep connection to Haliburton. And both Sandi Luck and Charles O'Neil were once students at Fleming, and O'Neil has of course been a teacher at the school for many years.

Sandi Luck is a much honoured Textile Artist who creates "assemblages" of silk, linen and cotton. She also

wears her own work, using vibrant colours to create work to "adorn the body and the home". For years she worked in architectural design, and has certificates in Textile Surface Design and Sustainable Building interior design from Fleming. Her most recent graphic design accomplishment was the Haliburton Museum's Haliburton: A History in Pictures.

Charles O'Neil's arresting sculptures of wire and glass beads are in collections around the world. His inspiration is both the human form and the natural world of animals: he says his "creative energy comes directly from the rugged beauty and the supportive artistic community of the Haliburton Highlands. The Haliburton School of the Arts has not only been instrumental in my arts education, but also as the place I obtain encouragement and inspiration." ■



Sculptor Charles O'Neill with Textile Artist Sandi Luck

Season's Greetings

Christmas Eve, 12:00 AM, Sunday, 12:00 AM
Tammy, Marianne, Colleen, Clay & Jason
Absent from picture: Hal & Lisa, working for the best this Christmas is their love & Denise Giesse!

V&S Department Store Haliburton

Highland Street, Haliburton

457-2715

vandshall.com

People Everywhere Share The Dream of Peace

This special season we join with all faiths to pray that the world continues on its way toward realizing that dream.

Happy Holiday

Thank you for your continued support

Debbie, Gord, Kathryn, Debbie and Kate

Haliburton & Minden Hearing Service

Season's Greetings

from Peter & Dianne & Family

JUNCTION SERVICE "The Cleaner Shop"

PHONE/FAX (705) 457-2272 • TOLL FREE 1-888-377-6444
20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
Hwy. 118 & County Road 14, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

Like the Voice??...

Thank our advertisers by using their services!!

Ex Principal Loves To Clown Around

Micheline Johnson becomes "Michou"

By George Farrell

Hearst Ontario is a community of 4000 people, located between Timmins and Thunder Bay. Ninety seven percent of the population is of French Canadian descent, the result of the long-gone days of timber mills, and the Québécois who came to do the heavy logging of logs.

Micheline Johnson (Roy) was born in Hearst in 1956, and she's a descendant of one of those French families who moved from the "Old Quebec area along the St Lawrence," in order to follow the timber trail to places like Hearst, and even Haliburton. Micheline is one of ten children, and she distinguished herself at an early age. She completed grades 12 and 13 in one year, and the first and second years of university in one year. By the time she was 18 she was teaching French in the separate school board in Hearst. At 23 Micheline moved to Calgary where she taught French Immersion. After a year in Calgary her work took her to Kapuskasing Ontario, where she spent three years working as a teacher and Vice Principal at a French school.

Micheline married a conservation officer when she was 27. His work took them all over Southern Ontario. The couple spent, on average, "2 to 3 years in any one location," and Micheline was always able to find work teaching French, to predominantly English speaking students. She continued doing so through the 80's and 90's. By 2000 she was single again, but the mother of 2 young girls.

In 2003 Micheline was appointed principal at Stuart Baker Public School in Haliburton, and in 2007 she married local resident John Johnson. She served as principal until her retirement in June of 2008, and she is on record as being the youngest principal in Ontario to retire with a full pension. She was just 51 years of age. Her two children, Erica now 17, and Monica 15, are attending Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

That in a nutshell, a small nutshell is a quick peek into the life history of Micheline Johnson. But somewhere in there, another personality began to emerge: Michou the clown.

"I started clowning in 1996," Micheline says reflectively. "I guess I got my first inspiration from a clown I saw at a kid's birthday party. I was later inspired and became friends with 'Santa and Mrs. Claus' who worked at Santa's Village in Bracebridge. My own kids also gave me inspiration. Even though they're two years apart age-wise they were both born around Easter, so one time I dressed up as an Easter bunny for them. I also learned some magic tricks from a student of mine, and I started enjoying wearing costumes. At the beginning I was a self-taught clown. I've always loved children, and so I began to help a children's entertainer from the Bracebridge area called Jam Sandwich."

By 1999 Micheline was attending clowning workshops at Brock University in St. Catharines, but before that, around 1996 the seed of Michou was starting to germinate. It was a slow birth, and Michou wasn't totally developed until 2002. During that development period Micheline took clown courses and workshops, and in 2000 she and other clowns in her group won a 1st place prize in a skit competition, from Clown Canada. "I really like my character and who I am, and I like being a girl clown also. I just don't come alive as much being a male clown," Micheline reveals. "Clowning is a dying art, and it's a serious business. The closer your character is to your real life, the better it is."

But how on earth could a Principal of a school also be a clown? In most schools the principals' office is a dreaded place. "My office was always secure for kids. It was a place for nurturing. The kids weren't scared because I tried to make it a welcoming environment, and learning



should be fun."

Having fun while learning. Now there's a concept. Perhaps that, in another nutshell, is Micheline's secret to her success as a teacher and Principal, and Michou is the vehicle, who can be used almost like a tool, to fascinate, entertain and prepare the young mind for learning life skills, such as a code of ethics. "There is a clown code of ethics," Micheline reveals. "Costume, routines, character, make up, they all have to be there. When you can talk to kids you can make your character come alive if you really believe in who you are. Kids can see through you if you don't have integrity."

Since her retirement Micheline, as Michou, has been busy. "I volunteer for work in the Therapy Dog Program, for people in long term care in Haliburton, and I teach reading classes to students in the schools of the Trillium Lakeland School Board. I always say that readers

are leaders."

"I go to the hospital in Haliburton, and Michou can be seen at parades like the Christmas parade and the Rotary parade in

August. Michou helps out at daycare centres in Lindsay and we attend clowning workshops in Bracebridge."

Next up for Michou, or Micheline is working on the Puppet Players Project with another local clown and puppeteer, Shelley King, starting in January.

"I absolutely love kids," Micheline concludes, "and it's great to be able to give some of the joy back, that children have given to me."

It's a long way culturally from Hearst to Haliburton, but what a fascinating journey it has been for Micheline Johnson.

If you'd like to find out more about Michou and discover how she might help your next project or party, give Micheline a call at (705) 457-9526. ■

HAVE A BEARY CUDDLY CHRISTMAS!! AND A HUGGY NEW YEAR!

Bill, Carol, Bob, Diana, Fran, Darlene & Judi

Teddy Time

Halco Plaza Behind Home Hardware

Not Quite Main Street. County Rd 21. Haliburton

Barry Devolin Member of Parliament

HALIBURTON • KAWARTHA LAKES • BROCK

"Warmest Wishes For A Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year!"

1 • 68 McLaughlin Rd., Lindsay K9V 6B5 • Tel.: (705) 324-2400 • Fax: (705) 324-0880 • Toll free (866) 688-9881
Email: devolb@parl.gc.ca • Website: www.barrydevolin.ca

Ho Ho Home to Your Royal Home for Christmas!

Best Wishes this Christmas from everyone at Royal Homes Minden.

The Leader in Manufactured Homes & Cottages

ROYAL HOMES

www.RoyalHomesMinden.on.ca

Warmest Wishes During The Holiday Season

WEST GUILFORD SHOPPING CENTER

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By Steve Newman



A Record Melt

 Vast amounts of land ice in Greenland, Alaska and Antarctica have melted since 2003 in an accelerating trend caused by climate change, U.S. scientists say. Measurements from NASA's new GRACE satellite show that those high-latitude areas lost more than 2 trillion tons of ice, with most of the decline occurring in Greenland. The runoff from that melting alone was enough to raise sea level 0.5 millimeters each of the last five years. The combined melting in Greenland, Antarctica and Alaska raised global sea levels about one-fifth of an inch in the past five years. While this past summer's Arctic ice coverage was a little more expansive than during the record loss of the summer of 2007, scientists say the overall ice volume was less than any other year because it was thinner.

Desert Infestation

 A huge plague of desert locusts has begun swarming over more than 150 square miles of northern Mauritania, threatening agriculture. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said the infestation emerged as a new breeding season began at the end of August. A second wave of reproductions bolstered the number of insects at the end of October. "The infestation is huge," Abdallahi Ould Babah, head of the center for controlling the desert locust in Mauritania, told Agence France-Presse. He said locust fighters have been able to treat only about 16 square miles with pesticides so far. The remote region is hard to reach because of its vast sand dunes. FAO specialists say the infestation consists mainly of wingless hoppers, which will mature and move into Western Sahara, where vegetation is green from unusually heavy rainfall during September.

Devil Disease Defense

 Wildlife experts in Tasmania have proposed constructing a fence across the western part of the island to protect the remaining population of Tasmanian devils still not infected with a deadly facial cancer. "Producing a fence to fence out a disease is a difficult technical issue. It isn't just a matter of slinging up something like a rabbit-proof fence," said Hamish McCallum, the scientist in charge of the Devil Facial Tumor Disease program. Wombats digging under the fence could be a problem.

Poaching Fatalities

 An upsurge in poaching at the last stronghold for the savanna elephants of Africa's Sahel region is probably responsible for the disappearance of 2,000 of the animals from the reserve over the past two years. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) says ivory poachers who use automatic weapons have decimated the elephant population in Chad's Zakouma National Park, leaving only about 1,000 of the animals still living there. "It's incredibly heartbreaking to stand before a dead elephant missing only its tusks," said WCS researcher Mike Fay. The accelerated poaching reversed a trend that saw elephant numbers rebound from an estimated 1,100 in 1985 to about 3,500 in early 2006 due to conservation efforts, WCS says.

Tropical Cyclones

 Developing Typhoon Dolphin brought high surf and brief thunderstorms to the U.S. territory of Guam.

- Weak Cyclone Billy came ashore along the border of Western Australia and the Northern Territory.
- Tropical Storm Cinda formed in the western Indian Ocean.

Earthquakes

 A relatively mild tremor shook parts of the South Carolina coast, causing minor damage.

- Earth movements were also felt in eastern Tennessee, central New Zealand, southern Sumatra, central Greece, southern Sweden and neighboring Denmark, Alaska's Kenai Peninsula and along the California-Mexico border.

Arctic Balance

 A new study says that some polar bears are likely to survive a melting Arctic by switching their food source from seals to the eggs of the snow goose. Writing in the journal *Polar Biology*, researcher Robert Rockwell of the American Museum of Natural History points out that polar bears survived a period of significant global warming 125,000 years ago when sea level was 12 to 18 feet higher and trees grew above the Arctic Circle. They did so by changing their diet as the climate and available food sources changed. Rockwell estimates that an earlier breakup of the ice pack around western Hudson Bay will coincide in less than four years with the time snow geese lay their eggs, bringing the bears and nesting birds together. Polar bears have already been seen eating some eggs, and it's estimated that a diet of the eggs from less than 40 nests will be able to replace the energy gained from an average day of hunting seals. There are now too many geese nesting in the Arctic for the region's resources to support. Threatened bears feeding on the surplus of eggs could be a way for nature to restore two separate balances.

Distributed by: Universal Press Syndicate
www.earthweek.com
© MMVIII Earth Environment Service

Have Your Say...
VOX POP

We asked people in Haliburton, "What's your New Year's Resolution? If you don't have one, why haven't you made one?"



Barry Devolin, Haliburton – "I don't have one yet, I think it's a little too early. My resolution last year was to run a marathon and I did it. I know I will definitely set more running goals for 2009. I'd also like to avoid an election, but I'd need all 307 of the other members of Parliament on board with me for that."



Catherine Thomas, Carnarvon – "Oh yes, I have one every year. It's always been to lose weight. Living life to the fullest is also a good one. This year, my friend and I are going to accomplish our resolution before we go on a trip."



James Jowett, Barrie – "I don't have a New Year's resolution and I normally never do. But I am looking forward to making 09 my best year in college because it's my last. Other than that, I expect it to be just like any other year."



Linda Shpilman, Gooderham – "I just want to stay happy, healthy and the way I've always been! I especially will make sure to spend quality time with my grandchildren."

Say you saw it
in the VOICE!!

WAKE UP WITH RYAN & RICK IN THE MORNING.

MOOSE FM

HALIBURTON - MINDENS CLASSIC ROCK 93.5

Tis A Week Left to Christmas - And a Blight on our House Partisan Voices, Much Spittle, Much Grouse...

Terrance Gavan
Staff Reporter

Tis the week before Christmas, and down at the House,
In the Commons no stirring, a prologue to Faust
The members snuck silent, sickly smiles, laissez faire,
The PM Sussexed snugly, alone with that hair.

The workers are waiting, no jobs and no bread,
And facing this Christmas, less hopeful, with dread.
They've been dumped, duped and drained with boat loads of
crap,
From a goldbrick's regime, much trap and much clap.

No rhyme and no reason to Fridge Hair's black patter
It's evident now, he's just mad as a hatter.
And nowhere is found redress from this hash
Most hoping the Tories just thud, boom and crash.

When faced with a verdict, our Harper said no!
The Commons be damned it's my ball let's go!
And off to the GG, the Crown's rightful peer
Harpie ran from the people, that smile hiding sneer.

His obsequious toadies, picayune hicks
Worked bunkered magic from odd satchels of tricks.
And as Sweater emerged to their lickspit refrains
They all fled fairly quick from that Great Hall of Shame.

On Limo, on Bootlick, on Jackal you vixens!
On Cringer, on Mealy, on Minion and Lickens.
Back to the Bunker, and backs to the wall
He showed us how backsliders weather a squall.

"I'd advise you dear sir ... to take on a new tack."

And his eyes, oh they flashed, his visage quite scary
That look caused ol' Hard Hair to beseech a Hail Mary
Iggy's stare was alarming, cold as ice floe,
It turned Sweater's pallor as white as new snow.

The Harvard professor then gritted those teeth,
And with steely stare, drew prose from its sheath
"You sir are nothing but a quaint Machiavelli
But bullies like you often fold like grape jelly."

"For two year's you've picked on a nice Liberal elf,
I'm warning you now ... place those tactics on shelf"
Iggy then winked an eye and it served to embed
Herald Hair with gut feeling of imminent dread.

Iggy spoke not a word but turned with a jerk
Leaving Sweater alone with his feckless young turks
"On Fawner, On Flunky on Sop, and on Brown-nose
Now off to the Bunker, we've new dirt to expose."

And sprang to the limo, Pavlov's dogs to shrill whistle,
And away they all flew, like muck-seeking missiles.
And I heard jackal refrains as they sped off to incite,
"Bah humbug dear voters, oh ... and have a
nice night."



Author's note: Any aspersions cast in the above were completely intentional. And remember what the Blight Honorable Mr. Harper said following the bleak economic forecast from the World Banks. Implying that there are a lot of deals out there during recessions, Icy Hair reminded all Canadians that: "It's a good time to buy."
It may be incumbent upon us all to reassess this squalid, seedy and sordid incumbency.
Oh... and Merry Christmas. ■

And now as we wait, our new Captain Bligh
Sits solid at Sussex, awaiting ally.
Enter Red Michael, that bold ingénue
The Hair dances lithely, a quaint pas de deux.

"Come hither young Mike," said la Bleu's feckless Goof
"Don't waggle that finger," said Iggy, aloof.
"I'm not the same patsy ... I'm not the same clown,
I'm here to say, there's a new sheriff in town."

And staring at Sweater, Iggy said, "You're a schnook,
And from all I can garner, maybe even a crook."
He laughed and he turned, and then retraced his tracks



**Thank You
to our customers
for a good year.**

Steve, Don, Ann,
John, Wilf, Owen
& Don S.

**DON BARKER
HEATING & COOLING**

16455 Hwy 35, RR2 Minden, Ont K0M 2K0
phone (705) 489-2004 fax 489-4043

**SEASONS
GREETINGS**

Fleming College

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Spanish II
starts Wednesday January 12th

**Ontario Building Code -
General Legal**
starts Monday January 12th

**Bookkeeping for Small
Business**
starts Thursday January 15th

Pottery for Beginners
starts January 26th

Introduction to Computers I
Thursday January 29th
Introduction to Computers II
Thursday February 5th
Introduction to Computers III
Thursday February 12th

Microsoft Excel I
Tuesday February 3rd
Microsoft Excel II
Tuesday February 10th
Microsoft Excel III
Tuesday February 17th

Effective Public Speaking
starts Tuesday Feb 3rd

Conversational French II
starts Tuesday February 3rd

Youth Pottery (10-16yrs)
Starts Tuesday February 3rd

**Kids Handbuilding Pottery
(5-9yrs)**
starts Saturday Feb 7th

**Ontario Building Code -
Small Buildings**
starts Monday February 9th

Youth Pottery (10-16yrs)
starts Tuesday February 3rd

Quickbooks Pro
starts Thursday February 12th

Glassblowing Workshop
Saturday February 21st

Adobe Photoshop
Saturday February 21st

Microsoft Word I
Tuesday February 24th
Microsoft Word II
Tuesday March 3rd
Microsoft Word III
Tuesday March 10th

**Clay Tiles - Decoration and
Illustration**
starts Thursday February 26th

**Ontario Building Code -
On-site Sewage Systems**
starts Monday March 2nd

CONTACT FLEMING COLLEGE TO REGISTER OR FOR INFORMATION
705-457-1680 www.flemingcollege.com

Nascar on Ice

Snowmobile Racing, Ice Ovals, Snowmobile Sprint Oval Racing all describe what The Highland Cup is all about, however, it is not until it's described as "NASCAR on ice!" do people finally say "Ohhh, okay, that sounds like fun!!"

Last March, Haliburton was host to the 1st annual Highland Cup. People who were not familiar with ice oval racing were able to see first hand how truly exciting the sport is. Haliburton is the sixth stop on the Eastern Pro Tour which also has stops throughout Quebec and the U.S. All of the events are sanctioned by SCM Racing, a company that also oversees Watercross and Snocross events throughout eastern Canada and the U.S.

Ice Oval Racing dates back to the early 1960's. In 1963, Beausejour Manitoba held its first annual race in a school yard with only 15 entrants. The following year, an unexpected 5000 spectators attended the event. Within four years the number of racer entries grew to a whopping 150 and in 1972, less than 10 years later, attendance was documented in excess of 25,000, and it's been going strong ever since.

It is our hope that The Eastern Pro Tour and The Highland Cup can experience the same success that Beausejour has. Ice Oval Racing is making a comeback in Eastern Canada. Longtime fans are resurfacing and public interest and awareness is increasing. This can be directly attributed to advertising. Being able to reach the public via radio, poster ads and the Internet is key. This is one of the largest but necessary expenses in this type of event.

There are many fans that will travel for hours to get to the nearest race location. These fans and spectators will make a weekend of it by booking accommodations for up to two nights. Last year people were booking in Minden and from as far away as Bracebridge. They will be eating at restaurants, buying fuel and picking up forgotten but necessary items at the local drug-store. Haliburton offers a very appealing retail sector to entice the female counterpart that may feel the need to wander away from the track occasionally. We encountered a few families at the event last year that decided to make Haliburton the location of their winter vacation because Haliburton County has a lot to offer when it comes to winter fun.

With the popularity and awareness of The Highland Cup increasing it is our hope that the event will be able to hire regular staff members each year. Even though the event is only for one

weekend, it takes months to set up and prepare. Track creation and maintenance is the largest part of the picture as staff will be needed before, during and after the event. We also need people for the admission gate, security and clean up crew.

We have been approached by the Frost Fest Committee re-

garding usage of the track for public skating as an available activity. We are currently working together to come up with a plan to make it work for everyone. It is encouraging to see that the community as a whole has the potential to benefit from this event. ■

(Submitted by Highland Cup Officials)

Highland Cup Returns to Haliburton Bigger and Better

Red Hawks Fall Prey to Round Robin Numbers Game in Oshawa

Terrance Gavan

Sports Editor

Hal High Red Hawks fell prey to the prickly dictates of round robin formatting at an Annual High School Hockey Tournament held in Oshawa December 11 and 12.

"We didn't advance to the second round, but we played really well," said Red Hawk coach and Athletic Director Ron Yake.

The Red Hawks finished the round robin portion of the tourney with a 2-1 record, but a tie breaking formula prevented the Hawks from advancing to the second round of the tourney.

"We had to be in the top two to advance," explained Yake. Whitby's Anderson High finished with an identical 2-1 record but because they defeated Haliburton in their round robin match-up they finished second and therefore advanced to the next round.

They lost to Anderson 4-2, but the game was never out of reach said Yake. The Hawks pulled the goalie late in the third and Anderson capitalized on an empty netter.

Their two wins came via the always exciting overtime shootout route.

Hawks played Toronto's Michael Power Trojans to a 2-2 tie after regulation and won it 3-2 in the always exciting shootout. Yake was especially impressed with that win, considering that the Michael Power has roughly three times the enrolment of the Double A Red Hawks. "We played a great game against a very good club," said Yake.

The Hawks also earned an overtime win against Stouffville District Secondary School in the Oshawa Tourney. "We were

down 3-2 and pulled the goalie and we managed to tie it up with just eight seconds remaining," said Yake.

That really bolstered the Kings confidence considering that Stouffville has managed to win the All Ontario High School Double A title over the past two seasons. "They're not quite as good as they were for the past two seasons, but they're still a good team and it was nice to beat them," said Yake.

Paddy Manuge happened to be playing in goal for both overtime wins. Manuge and Alex Monk-Cray have been splitting the goaltending chores fifty-fifty in the course of this season and Yake says they form a stellar and seasoned tandem adding that it's a combination that will put the Hawks in a great position as they move further into Kawartha league action this winter.

Manuge faced seven shooters in his two overtime shootouts and did not relinquish a goal.

The Hawks will get some time off for turkey and gifts over the Christmas break, but Yake says that another tough spate of games awaits the Hawks immediately upon their return from the Christmas holidays.

Hal High will play a make-up game in Norwood on Wednesday, January 5th. And then on Friday the Hawks will be competing in the very large and competitive Peterborough Tournament.

That tourney is slated for Friday January 10th and Saturday

Cont'd on Page 35...



Season's Greetings

from all of us at



YOUNGDALE FUELS

Your home town fuel supplier

4WD FUEL DELIVERY

HEATING OIL • LUBES • DIESEL FURNACES
SALES & INSTALLATIONS

(705) 457-2500
162 Industrial Park Road, Haliburton

Duchene Picked for Prospects Team

Terrance Gavan

Sports Editor

You won't find Matthew Duchene dwelling too much on the past.

There is, after all, so much future to consider.

Preparation for the second half of the Ontario Hockey League season with the Brampton Battalion, a team that just might challenge for a spot in the finals and a subsequent trip to the Memorial Cup.

And this season marks his NHL draft year. Central scouting has Duchene ranked as high as third overall in the first round.

He is young, smart and a helluva' good hockey player. Like his Brampton Battalion teammate and long time friend Cody Hodgson, he is also blessed with a larger than life work ethic.

Just three days after a very disappointing ouster from the Canadian National Junior team's tryout camp, he was informed of his selection to the Canadian Hockey League's Top Prospects Game.

Duchene is among 24 forwards and 15 Ontario Hockey League players named to the game at Oshawa's General Motors Place on Jan. 14, 2009.

The game, in its 14th year, features CHL players eligible for the National Hockey League's 2009 Entry Draft and selected by NHL Central Scouting and the league's 30 member clubs.

That takes some of the sting out of the disappointing cut from the Junior National club. But not all of it. Matthew Duchene did after all go into the junior camp with some pretty high expectations. One facet of Duchene's overarching success remains his dedication to excellence and his unique capacity for carrying the freight, no matter the weight.

Duchene said, in a recent Toronto Star article, that he remains upbeat, but was at the same time just a little burdened with a nagging notion.

"We don't look ahead to the future, we live for the day, I guess," said Duchene in the Star piece.

"I just view this as an opportunity that I missed and whether I have (a chance) next year or not or the year after that or not, it doesn't really matter at this point to me. I just feel like I let a really good opportunity slip away."

He did, in the end, fall prey to the double whammy of Hockey Canada's stolid and entrenched numbers game.

Number one, only 22 spots extant for the 38 players invited to junior team selection camp. Good players. Excellent players.

Number two he was one of only five 17 year olds who made the camp roster and of those five only one defenseman Ryan Ellis made the team.

Disappointed by National Team Cut – Duchene Nevertheless Remains Upbeat

It's an old tried and true coaching formula. When there are a plethora of 18 and 19 year old players in camp, age, in the end almost always will out.

There was also that other thing; a shoulder injury that kept him out of the Battalion line-up for six games leading up to the junior camp.

"It hurt me more in terms of being in game form," said Duchene in the Star. "I played one game in three weeks before going to the camp and obviously it's pretty tough because that camp is so intense and there are so many good players. I know that if I hadn't been injured I would have been able to do more on the ice."

For now though Duchene is back in Haliburton for the OHL's Christmas hiatus.

Since returning home Duchene has been on a proverbial busman's holiday spending some of his time in the rinks of Haliburton and Minden. Giving back to the minor hockey system that gave him an opportunity to shine.

Duchene is helping out with some team building and coaching for some Highland Storm teams.

Giving back. Helping out. Spreading the good word.

It's the hallmark of this young man. Unselfish, and involved.

And he's skating too. Prepping and working.

He says that the Prospects Game is a great opportunity.

"I know the scouts and the hockey staff of every NHL team pack the rink to watch the game," Duchene said via his team's website. "It's a big opportunity to impress some people, but I know, if for some reason things don't go well, it's not the end of the world."

Nose to the grindstone, head well removed from the clouds.

A pretty nice level-headed approach to the game from a pretty nice guy.

He's feeling ready and is looking forward to yet another challenge.

He has 13 goals and 21 assists for 34 points in 24 games. He's second only to Hodgson in Battalion scoring. He says his shoulder is recovering nicely.

In short Matt Duchene is ready.

"It's a goal to play in this game. Being among the top-ranked guys for the draft is a good place to be. I'm going to have a lot of fun there." ■

Hawks Hockey Team Fail to Advance Despite 2-1 Record

... from pg. 34

January 11th and it will incorporate that same finicky round robin format.

"I think there's 48 teams in total signed up for the tourney and it's divided into three categories," said Yake.

The Hawks are ensconced in the B Division and the Hawks play three games against their round robin rivals on the Friday.

Again, the Hawks will have to finish in the top two to advance into second tier group action on Friday.

They're paired against some fairly big GTA schools in Oakwood and Pickering, but Yake is pretty upbeat about their chances.

"We've been playing really well as a unit all season and we're looking forward to the Peterborough tournament," said Yake.

He is also buoyed by the fact that Josh Townsend is beginning to gel. Townsend is playing on a line with Ron's son Brett Yake and Ian Bottum and Yake gave full props to that line for a superb effort in the Oshawa tourney, but he was especially high on Townsend.

"He scored some goals and he's a wide body out there who adds offense when he's going well," said Yake.

He's also more than inspired by the play of his team as a whole. "Look, all three lines are playing really well as a unit and we also have great balance defensively," said Yake.

He says that the next major project for this young team is to get the power play on track.

"That takes some time to develop the power play," said Yake. "But we had some good puck control and some good opportunities on the power play in Oshawa and that's certainly encouraging." ■

**Wishing Everyone A Safe
and Happy Holiday Season**

Complete Adult
2 piece suits
starting at
\$199⁹⁵

Complete Kids
2 piece suits
starting at
\$143⁹⁵

LEA'S LAWN & RECREATION
Hwy. 35, Minden
(705) 286-1944

**Merry
Christmas**
from
**HALIBURTON
CURLING CLUB**

Stedmans V&S Department Store

**Merry Christmas & All the Best
for the New Year**
from John, Robyn and the staff

**Stedmans V&S Minden
Department Store**
103 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden. Phone: 705-286-1075

C. J. Vinyl Graphics
Fast & Affordable

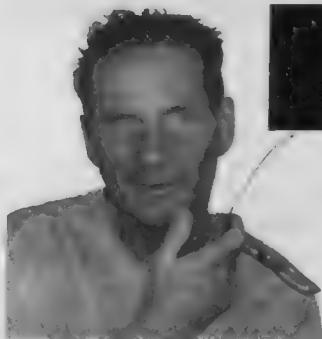
- Signs (all sizes)
- Store Fronts
- Banners
- Vehicle Lettering
- Lit-Back Signs
- Window Lettering
- Full Colour Picture Signs

**Now
Offering
Vehicle
Wraps**

**We can design your
signs or storefront at
your location!**

905-721-9856
Colin Johnston
Serving Haliburton County

Mats Sundin and Cody Hodgson Together on Canada's Blustery Coast?



Mat's Poker Face and Cody's Fluid Grace – Who Will Out and Make the Case?

Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

Look, I have nothing against the manic poker playing diva from Sweden.

For all I know Mats Sundin is a very charming guy with a flair for the debonair.

Do I think he manufactured a contract from the persnickety and cap-challenged suitors who knocked on his door lo' these past 6 months?

Probably.

Is he worth the green from the Vancouver machine?

Don't bet on it. It's not even close.

Ask Leaf Nation, a savvy, mildly rabid group of puck cognoscente, who will get their chance for commentary, consolidated, cranky, and castigating on February 21st of 2009 when the Swaggering Staggering Swede will make his way back to the Hot Stove seat of Roger's great sanctuary of mild sanguinity.

If I had to pin my Stanley Cupped aspirations to a star, I would look further down the food chain dear Canuckadoodle-do's. Harken Trevor Linden, a solid commodity with less flair and more stare. The type of hombre that needs no introduction. Trevor was solid, self-effacing, evocative and imbued of that much coveted blue collar work ethic.

You don't need a Swedish massage on your injured pride. You need someone of substance. Someone like Linden. Someone who isn't a stranger to hard work.

Take a good look at what you just landed. And tell me. Did you get another Linden? Or did you just pop a cool eight million with a signing entreaty of another two million for half a year's flirt with a player who looks for all the world like a Nordic bit player straight outta' central casting.

No my Canuckadoodle-do's, Sweet Sundin is not the answer. Not even if you phrase that delicately in the form of a jeopardized question to the Trebek query: "No Salvation Soon Van-

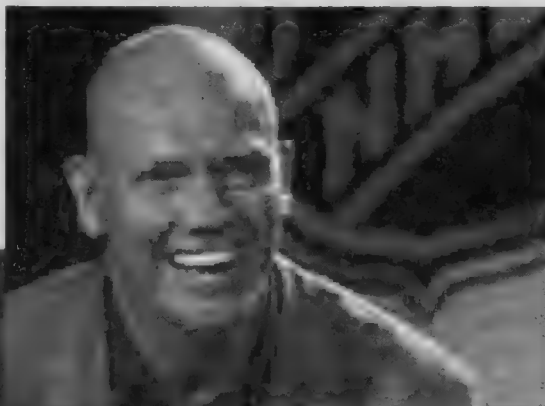
couver!"

"What is a Mats Sundin Alex?"

"Absolutely correct for a thousand."

Yes my dear Canuckadoodle-do's, you may canoodle with Mats Sundin for the nonce and you may even bang your chorled car horns all the way down Burrard Street to the Inlet and beyond to storied Gastown. You may even start saving for Stanley Cup tickets.

The glass is either half-full or half-



empty. I'm leaning latterly.

Quoted in a Toronto Star piece by Rosie Dimanno,

Sunny Sundin is less push and more shove in assessing his soon to be new career start in Vancouver.

"Time was running out," said Mats. "I realized if I was going to play again, I had to start now or I'd lose the whole season. And I did want to play. For a long time, I just wasn't sure of that. But I finally realized how much I missed the game, missed being on the ice, in the dressing room."

And then he let rubber hit road.

"When the opportunity is over, it could be over for good."

Aw shucks my dear Canuckadoodle-do's. You've got a feel good story here. It's Christmas, Canadians are in the deep frozen depths of a full blown recession. There's talk about hiring work gangs for good-old fashioned 1930's-era infrastructure building. Highways, subways, bridges, sewers. Wheeee! Let that Cee-ment fly!

"People, can a body getta' a shovel and some fresh asphalt here? There's roads to patch, bridges to prop. Up and down that Sea to Sky highway, we gotta' move some mud, pop some rock! Whattaya' mean nine bills an hour?"

Meanwhile, the homeless are being wheedled out of accustomed tent space in Stanley Park to make room for the expected influx of haute couture turistas on their way to Van City for a little fiesta we like to call the 2010 Winter Olympics.

And Mats? Between rounds of poker in Vegas, Monte Carlo and the Mirage, Mats has agreed to a one year contract and a mere \$6,000,000, pro-rated, for a wonky work ethic that lamentably could use some fine tuning.

"It's not a perfect situation, coming in this late," says Sundin. Really? Ya' think?

"All the other players in the league are in mid-season form. It's going to be a while before I can compete at that level. But I just felt that Vancouver seemed like a good fit for me."

It's \$6,000,000. For tops, six months of work. Sounds like a good fit to me

"Hey wait just a cotton pickin' minute here. Did I hear right? \$6,000,000 for a half a season? Hey! Yo! Can a fella' get another shovel here? I am being buried under the toppling weight of a blonde-haired, blue-eyed bushel of crap down here. That's what it feels like anyway. I could be wrong."

Well, like I said. I got nothing at all against Mats Sundin. I just don't think it's going to pay dividends. Right here, right now, Mats Sundin is a waste of space.

The better fit?

No brainer my Canuckadoodle-do's. Your real salvation was on display last Friday night on TSN. Remember the T stands for "The".

Cody Hodgson, your first round and 10th overall pick in the 2008 spring draft, is the guy you should be looking at long run and for the huge cross country big rig haul that is the NHL season. Hodgson, cerebral, savvy, Lindenesque. With a work ethic right outta' some Puritan workbook.

Forget Sundin and hearken all that bonhomie that you reserved for native son Trevor Linden not too long ago. The guy you really need is already there. Or was for the bulk of training camp and a number of exhibition contests earlier this fall in Whistler and beyond.

On Friday night, Cody Hodgson scored a goal and added two assists in a 4-2 win over Sweden in a warm-up game for the 2009 International Junior Hockey Championships which gets underway in Ottawa on Boxing Day.

Pierre McGuire TSN's ever obliging and swanky analyst reserved a holler to all the fans in Van City when he stopped to single out Hodgson's huge potential midway through the third frame of that exhibition tilt. He stopped mid-sentence and mid-thought and christened Hodgson as the next leader of the Canucks.

Yes Canuckadoodle-do's McGuire was talking effervescently and eye-poppingly at you.

And I think he's right.

Wait a year or two.

By then, Sundin may well be pushing his walker creakily out the GM Place Arena Door, heading for Vegas, with a deck of cards and a Maverick's blank stare.

I've got nothing against the Swedish bombshell.

But at 37 he's reminding me more and more of Leo Rautins.

Rautins is coach of Canada's national basketball team and a color analyst for the THE network.

Back when he was drafted by the Philadelphia Seventy Sixers out of Syracuse, he was selected to the NBAs All Airport Team. All Airport?

Never saw the floor but looked great while boarding the team's chartered plane. Tall, tanned good looking. Couldn't play a lick but man he looked sweet in a suit with that beautiful Gucci luggage.

Mats Sundin is one or two on my NHL All Airport Squad.

Looks great in a suit. Signs a mean autograph.

Hey, I like the guy.

But I'm just sayin'.

Reserve the welcome wagon for the dude that can carry the freight.

You know the guy.

Strong worker. Savvy puck handler. Two way demon. Sure hands. Smart as a whip.

Oh, and I almost forgot.

Got his start right here in Haliburton.

Cody Hodgson.

Hates Nevada, Texas Hold Em and Black Jack. ■

COUNTY AUTO REPAIR & Radiator Service

Certified Air Conditioning Service Centre

Auto Repairs to all makes
Radiators repaired and re-cored
Guaranteed gas tanks Pronto Muffler Centre
Central Ontario Tire Dealer

Lube, Oil, Filter. Free Brake Inspection

457-1411 Industrial Park - Haliburton

AWAY IN A MANGER

May the true spirit of Christmas be yours, just as in the manger on that Holy Night when the Star first shone above

Peace and joy to your whole family from ours all through this season and the coming year

Colleen, Robert, Larissa, Alexander, Hilary & Staff
Wedgewood Marine

A Place to Build Memories

3km south of Minden on Hwy 35

705-286-6992
1-888-717-4923

www.royalhomesminden.on.ca
sales@royalhomesminden.on.ca

ROYAL HOMES

YOUR LOT, YOUR DREAM...CUSTOM BUILT!

ENERGUIDE

We Specialize in Exterior Beautification

But we do a heck of a good job indoors too!

If you're looking to have some indoor projects and renovations done this winter, give us a call for a **FREE QUOTE.**

Fully Insured

GONYEA
EAVES, SIDING & RENOVATIONS

286-6224

The Essonville Line – A Christmas Reminiscence

Stephen Patrick

Editor

Christmas is perhaps the most family-intense time of the year, when most of us do all we can to spend time with our parents, siblings, children and grandchildren. Many people travel vast distances to ensure family traditions are observed. It's often a time of family stress, as well, when past tensions and jealousies bubble easily to the surface. Not for nothing the old joke, "Why did God invent the family? To prove there could be hell on earth."

Nevertheless the holiday tradition continues unabated, and if anything, stronger than ever. I remember spending my 16th Christmas in England, thousands of miles away from home, and how extraordinarily strange it felt. I was invited to a friend's family gathering in a flat opposite the British Museum for Christmas morning, with the feast to follow. Instead of gathering around the tree, emptying your stocking, opening the one present allowed before we were whisked off to Church, we had an extensive family tour of the local pubs exchanging Christmas greetings (and a glass) with publicans and neighbours alike. I'm not sure I remember much about the dinner, except that my hosts used Cointreau instead of Cognac to flame the pudding, with very odd results.

Christmas also changes as your generation marches on. I'm lucky enough to have a healthy, active mother-in-law: but my own parents are gone, along with all my aunts and uncles. Where once we looked up, we now look down on the generations behind us, and try to emulate the best of what we were given. Each year at this time, as a kind of remembrance and acknowledgment of my parents' ethics and ethos, I make it a point to travel the Essonville Line to reacquaint, to touch, with that world. This year has a particular significance: my mother, Jean Elizabeth d'Olier Orde, was born 100 years ago this past October. She first visited her Wilberforce cousin when she was a teenager. That cousin, Agatha Josephine Orde, had married Canon Francis Battersby, and moved into the manse at Christ Church Essonville. My mother was in fact born and raised in Winnipeg, but almost all her uncles and aunts were still in the Peterborough and Haliburton area, so visits were a fairly regular part of her young life. Apart from connecting with family, it also gave her a life-long love of the Haliburton landscape. When my parents moved east in 1945 and looked for a place to "camp", their choice was clear.

My mother also remembered the Wilberforce of that era and recalled that she "met the Reverend Francis and Cousin Aggie when I was young and remember careening about the countryside with Francis who drove an old Ford like a fiend." The Battersby's had two daughters, Margaret, who became a teacher and ran a Business College in Peterborough, and Sylvia Cameron, who became a well-known nurse at the Red Cross Outpost Hospital in Wilberforce.

Christ Church Essonville is a Haliburton jewel, still kept up by a vigilant Church Committee chaired by Ken Noble, even though the church was consecrated decades ago. The Church Committee has two services a year, a Memorial Service in the summer, and a Carol Service on the Sunday before Christmas. But this year I continue on to the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost Hospital, which is hosting a Christmas Open House, and am welcomed by Hilda Clarke, who was part of the Committee that spearheaded the drive to preserve and restore the little Hospital that contains so much of Wilberforce's history. The Hospital is an amazing place, filled with archival material, pictures, and of course the perfectly preserved hospital rooms. Hilda herself was born there, and Sylvia Cameron served there for many years. And Hilda boarded with my cousin Margaret Battersby when she attended Normal School in Peterborough as a young woman.

Many of the original Committee members are present at the Hospital for this very pleasant Christmas celebration. Conservation is easy and warm, as remembrances and old acquaintanceships are renewed. I can easily feel in this group the tenor and cadence of my parents, aunts and uncles, and grandparents. I'm grateful for the welcome the group gives me, and to have a chance to look again at pictures of my cousins, from so long ago.

The Wilberforce Community, indeed all of Haliburton, is fortunate to have citizens dedicated to the preservation of its colourful history and buildings. That history can touch generations in a myriad of ways – some totally unexpected. The rewards are a reinforcement of the idea of a family Christmas – traditions kept, not lost. ■



From left, Joan and Ken Noble, Ken and Nadeen Sanderson, Gerald Shackleton, Flo Elliott, Alfretta O'Rourke, and Hilda Clark.

Have a Warm Bubbly Christmas!



From everyone at

The PUMP SHOP

457-2638 1-888-312-7867

Hwy 118 & Maple Ave. Haliburton



HALIBURTON COUNTY
HOMEBUILDERS' ASSOC.

Have A Safe and Happy Holiday Season



SHARPLEY
Source
for sports.

Highland St. Haliburton

457-3933 1-800-219-8883

OPP Out On the Trails and Lakes

S.T.O.P. Officers Enforcing Snowmobile Safety in the

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

With the snowmobile season in full swing, members of the Snowmobile Trail Officer Patrol (S.T.O.P.) program are now out in full force in Haliburton County.

Last Friday, Const. Isaac Austin and Const. Peter Allore of the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment, were out patrolling Haliburton's Rail Trail on two Ski-Doo snow machines equipped with red flashing lights. It was the first day of this winter season for the program.

The S.T.O.P. program first started as a pilot project in Sudbury in the 1992/1993 season in response to a series of alcohol related fatalities.

S.T.O.P. officers are made up of volunteers from the snowmobile community who are sworn in and designated as Special Constables and Provincial Offences Officers by the Province of Ontario. They are capable of enforcing the Motorized Snow Vehicle Act and, where empowered by municipalities, the local snowmobile bylaws. Some OPP officers also are a part of the initiative.

While operating under a protocol agreement at the provincial level between the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) and the OPP, the main goal of volunteers is to improve the sport of snowmobiling.

S.T.O.P. officers contribute to safety on the trails by enforcing snowmobile laws, assisting police with sobriety spot checks, alcohol enforcement efforts and addressing public nuisance complaints.

Off the trails S.T.O.P. officers provide education in schools, displays in malls, snowmobile shows, parades and other municipal events and help with driver education. ■



Const. Isaac Austin and Const. Peter Allore of the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment took a break from their patrol of the Rail Trail to show off their sleds last Friday.

Season's Greetings
from all of us

at
PRENTICE
POWER SPORTS LTD.

HALIBURTON COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S MINDEN SHOW ONTARIO

July 10th, 11th and 12th 2009



Alex Gouthro



Dave Mercer Facts of Fishing



Ontario Monster Buck Magazine

The upcoming Sportsman Show is going to be held at the Minden Arena, Curling Club, Fairgrounds and Parking lots

The following is a list of show features that we have booked so far:

- ◆ Dave Mercer of Facts of Fishing
- ◆ Steve Gala, Upland Birds Hunting Editor from Ontario Out Of Doors Magazine
- ◆ Alex Gouthro, an outdoor author, photographer and videographer
- ◆ Wye Marsh, Birds of Prey demonstrations
- ◆ Haliburton ATV Association-ATV rides for the Kids
- ◆ Tentatively-Rocky Crawford of Rocky Crawford Outdoors
- ◆ Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association -Fish Tank for Kids and Archery
- ◆ Ontario Monster Buck Magazine -Buck Show
- ◆ Federation of Wild Turkey Association- Kids Turkey Calling Competition
- ◆ Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters- Fishing with Kids- Moose Calling
- ◆ Competition for the kids and other events

For Saturday evening's entertainment is Canadian Funny Guy, **Jimmy Flynn** who promises a night of laughter and music.



Be sure to attend- for more information or to book booth space call the number below 705-286-1936 or 286-4093 to speak to the Show Manager

For week of December 22

Horoscopes

It's in the Stars

BORN THIS WEEK: You always try to do your best, which sometimes causes you to be critical of those who don't live up to your standards.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might be busier than you had expected right now. But between the socializing rounds and the workplace tasks, there are opportunities for special moments with that certain someone.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your creative approach leads to a quicker-than-expected solution to a workplace problem. Now you can devote more time to that proposal you hope to introduce by midmonth.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Technological glitches create problems early on. But by midweek, all runs smoothly once again, and you're well and truly on your way toward meeting all your deadlines.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your energy levels are high, and you feel you can handle everything that comes along. But try to take a break from your hectic pace for some quiet time with someone close to you.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Before you pounce on that shiny new opportunity, take more time to check it out to see how much substance actually lies beneath all that glitter. A family member has important news.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A personal situation you thought was resolved resurfaces, thanks to a possibly well-intentioned move that went awry. Deal with it as soon as possible. Accept the help of a trusted friend.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) That goal you set way back when is finally in sight. Maintain your focus on achieving it, and don't allow yourself to be distracted by unimportant demands for your attention.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A temperamental flare-up creates negative feelings that need to be dealt with immediately. But things once again go well after the apologies are made and hurt feelings are soothed.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) An early impulsive act causes confusion. But all is smoothed over once explanations are made. Expect a friend or family member to ask for your kind and always wise advice.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You might have to do some juggling of your priorities, as a personal matter appears to require more time and attention. Put your pride aside and accept help from those who offer it.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your creative aspect is strong. Not only does it help you accomplish your goals, but it also inspires others. This could lead to a potentially rewarding collaboration opportunity.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Be careful about making major decisions when you're not really committed to them. And resist any pressure to do otherwise. Better to delay action until all doubts are resolved.

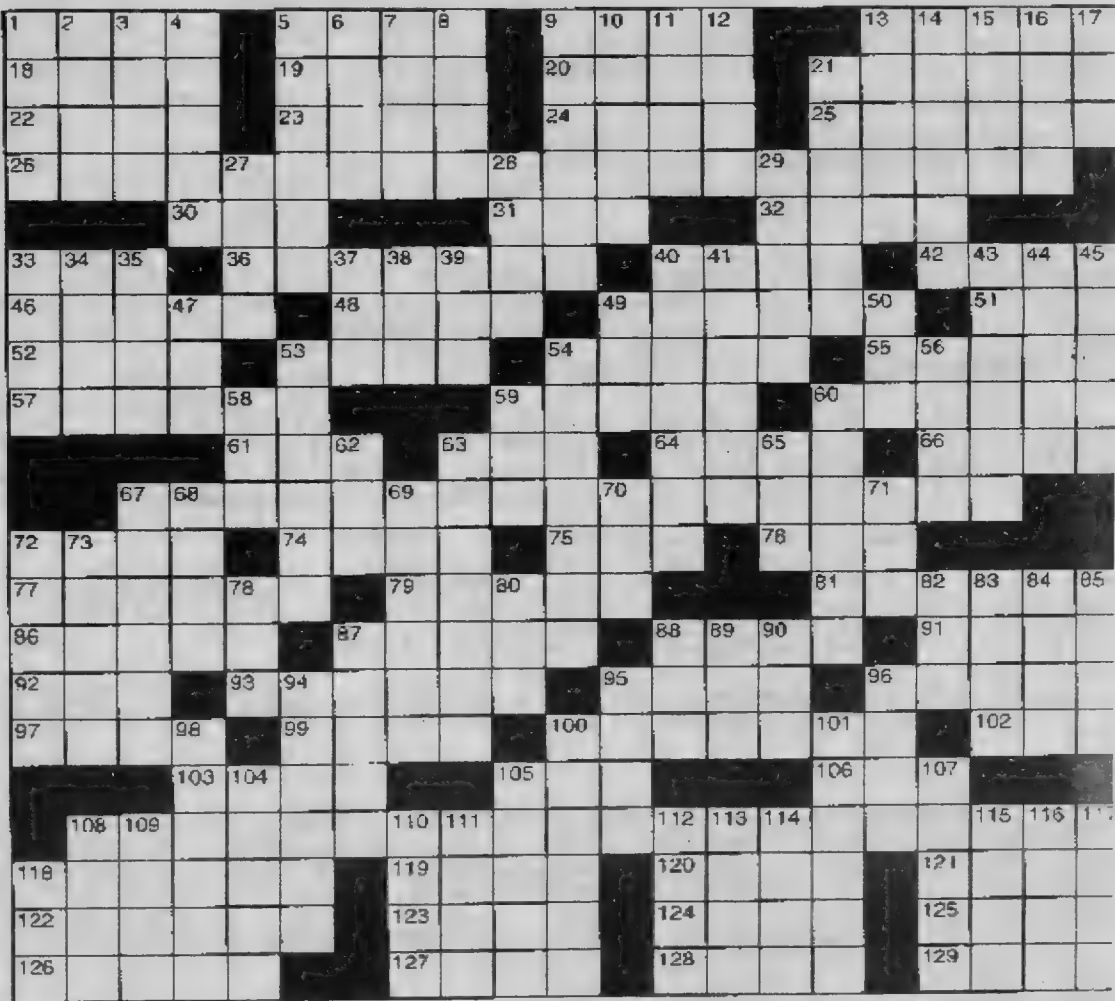
Super Crossword

PRESENT DANGER

- ACROSS**

1 Singer
5 Gusto
9 Complain
13 Helium and hydrogen
18 Israeli airline
19 Cultural grp.
20 "Picnic" playwright
21 Actress
22 Strauss — sprach
23 "Chacun a son —"
24 Lassie's father
25 Diva
26 Start of a remark by Milton Berle
30 Iron —
31 Center of gravity?
32 — Pea (Popeye's kid)
33 Health resort
36 Swore off
40 "I Little Man" — ('91 film)
42 Mock
46 Polished the Pontiac
48 R&B's Johnny
- 49 Harsh
51 Latin I word
52 Help in a heist
53 Baseball's Nolan
54 Hiawatha's transport
55 Very cold
57 King's quarters
59 Brilliant bird
60 Common antiseptic
61 Phone
63 Shepard or Snead
64 Post in the past
66 Particle
67 Middle of remark
72 Winter
74 Memo start
75 Brenda or Brandon
76 Gob
77 Speaker
79 Singer
81 "Barry —" ('75 film)
86 Defamation
87 Shoelace part
88 Charity
91 French airport
92 "Unaccustomed — am —"
- 93 Storage sites
95 Burn remedy
96 Steep rocks
97 Curl up with
99 Ho Chi —
100 Mobile home?
102 Dogpatch's Daisy —
103 Famous fellow?
105 Scrape by, with "out"
106 Stout relative
108 End of remark
118 "Peter Pan" extra
119 Comic
120 Seaport or Canal
121 Circus sound
122 Put on
123 Disoriented
124 Run in neutral
125 — Taft Benson
126 Stereo component
127 Trawler gear
128 Tumbled
129 TV's "— the Press"
- 2 Raines or Wilcox
3 "Boss"
Tweed's nemesis
4 Hilo hello
5 Croatian capital
6 Slaughter or Cabell
7 Lobe probe?
8 "Cheerio!"
9 Ached for
10 In reserve
11 Taj town
12 — do-well
13 Lawn ornament
14 Comes to terms
15 Big rig
16 Jack of "Rio Lobo"
17 — Bernardino, CA
21 Response
27 "Heavens to Betsy!"
28 Montand or Tanguy
29 Cosmetician
33 Trade
34 Sunscreen ingredient
35 Lipinski leap
37 Happiness
38 Actress
Hagen
39 — Tin Tin
40 Logical
- 41 Declaration
43 Rock salt
44 — acid
45 Transmit by bytes
47 LAX letters
49 Cul-de- —
50 Freud topic
53 Mend
54 Lerner & Loewe musical
56 Dutch export
58 Roller-coaster unit
59 — jongg
60 Perfect examples
62 — ear
63 Furriveness
65 Mil. group
67 Sheik spot
68 Destiny
69 Siegfried slew one
70 Itch
71 Strive
72 — plexus
73 Greet Eos
78 Vintage
80 Musical syllables
82 Postman's Creed word
83 Wee serving
84 "Eugene O'Neill" character
85 AMEX rival
87 Simian
- 88 Menu phrase
89 Tennis stroke
90 "— culpa"
94 Hammed up "Hamlet"
95 Pianist
Templeton
96 Baby bovine
98 Mar
100 Powerful pooches
101 Maestro Lorin
104 39.37 inches
105 Snowy bird
107 — Zimbalist, Jr.
108 In — (archaeology term)
109 Mediter-ranean port
110 "No Way Out" actress
111 Scenter of your face?
112 Like
113 Bare
114 Swiss sharp-shooter
115 Seep
116 Seldom seen
117 "Confound it!"
118 Oregon hrs.

DOWN
1 Page



MYERS CHIMNEY

SERVING HALIBURTON COUNTY

Sweeping * Installation * Inspection * Repair
Custom Ceramic Stove Pads Built On Site
Code Compliant * Insurance Reports

WEET CERTIFIED

IAN MYERS

PHONE: 705-286-1245
EMAIL: myerschimney@hotmail.com
Website: www.myerschimney.com

When Quality is your Number 1 Concern

Ian Johnson

(General Contracting)

All Home Improvements • Custom Work

ian_johnson@sympatico.ca

(905) 754-1086

WSIB REGISTERED
CSAO MEMBER

John E. Francis Fuels

HEATING & COOLING

Serving Haliburton County since 1973

Installation • Sales • Service • Oil Furnaces • Tanks • Water Heaters • Duct Work
24-hr. Emergency Burner Service • Automatic Delivery of Home Heating Oil
Full Line of Ultramar Lubricants • 24-hr. Cardlock for Diesel and Gasoline
Mini Storage Available

11495 HWY. 35
MINDEN (705) 286-2738

Hilmut Schari

CUSTOM WOODSHOP

- 25 years experience -

- Custom Woodworking
- Custom Trim
- Custom Turning
- Staircases • Kitchen Cabinets
- Custom Furniture
- Renovations • Additions

Tel: (705) 489-1046 Cell: (705) 457-5824
2189 Buckslide Road, Minden

PETRINI CONSTRUCTION

VINYL & ALUMINUM SIDING

SOFFIT • FASCIA • ROOFING • DOORS & WINDOWS
5" SEAMLESS EAVESTROUGH
GUTTER PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Serving Haliburton County since 1978

Nathan Petrini 705-457-2754

CHURKO ELECTRIC

ECRA - ESA # 7003932

office: 457-4576
fax: 457-1494
e-mail: steve@churkoelectric.com

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

Professionalism at "Your Service"

Sharp Electric

Generators & Emergency Back Up Power Systems

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING & SERVICE

Cottage • Home • Commercial • Industrial

Supplies • Water Heater Repairs • Electric Heat • Pole Lines • Hydro Poles

Featuring **SOMMERS** Generators

E.S.A. Contractor license # 7002795

Haliburton
457-2640

Minden River Kings On a Tear - Brett Meyers Pops Another Trick Victory over Oro 77s Extends Win Streak to Five

Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

Midst the trades. Midst the furor. Midst the uproar.

Stuttered, scattered and splayed between a coach's resignation, a scramble to bolster lineup numbers and a struggle to recover from a disappointing start to their inaugural season in the Greater Metro Hockey League (GMHL) the Minden River Kings have showed a tenacity and verve of late that speaks to inner strength. And maybe some measure of magic.

Last Wednesday, riding the walloping wave of an unprecedented and eye-popping four-game win streak the River Kings traveled to Oro Medonte Township knowing that another win would push them into a fifth place tie with the Brock Bucks.

Also on their minds, the knowledge that a bump even further up the standings would have to come by way of a couple of wins over Oro this week. The 77s currently hold down fourth place in the GMHL's tough Northern Conference.

That said, Minden coach Brooks Robinson said that his team was well prepared for last Wednesday's tilt against Oro.

"We knew it was a big one and the guys played well," said Robinson, who is, coincidentally, also now 5-0 as head coach since taking over the reins of the struggling River Kings just a little over a month ago.

Led by the Minnesota Maestro Brett Meyers, who scored a hat trick, including the overtime winner, the Kings defeated the 77s 5-4 in the extended play contest last Wednesday.

The Kings game against the league-leading South Muskoka Shield last Friday was postponed due to weather.

Last Saturday the Kings once again traveled to Oro for another tilt against the 77s who acquired the Kings one time captain Toby Kathan in a blockbuster four-for-one trade. (Note that because of Christmas deadlines we could not report on Saturday's outcome.)

Robinson said that Kathan came out with something to prove last Wednesday. He shadowed Meyers and even took a pretty good run at the Kings starting netminder Andrew Selbie.

But Selbie popped back up and proved, in the nonce, that he has the moxie and mettle to compete in this demanding northern conference. "Selbie's playing really well for us right now and Brett, well, what can you say about Brett," said Robinson. "Toby tried to shadow

Brett, but I really don't think anyone can stay with him one-on-one."

The win pushed the Kings' record to 11-15-1 and moved into a tie for fifth place with the Brock Bucks who sport an identical record.

The 77s are 13-8-4 and lead the Kings by just 7 points. A win on Saturday could loosen up that margin and so Robinson is well aware that the Saturday night tilt will be a statement game.

"Wednesday's game was hard fought and on Saturday we'll have to come out ready to play because these guys will be looking to make up for Wednesday," said Robinson.

Robinson said that his charges came out a little slow in the first period, but added that as they gained their feet, they slowly worked their way back into the game.

The Kings were down 2-1 after one, and skated back to take a 4-3 lead into the second intermission. "We let them off the hook in the third, but about two and a half minutes into the overtime Brett got the winner," said Robinson. "We know what to expect from these guys on Saturday and it's going to be another tough game."

Cam Walsh and Briar Hill got the other two goals for the Kings. Long, lean and lanky 6'5" defenseman Calvin Northam, who has played superb hockey since joining the River Kings in a trade with Deseronto earlier this season, had three assists in the game.

"Calvin is just playing great for us over the past couple of weeks and he's solid back there," said Robinson.

Thomas Falardau had two assists including one on the winner, while Hill, Mike Dagostino, Evan Beasley and Jeff Beale each added assists in the win.

Robinson couldn't say enough about Meyers who has definitely upped his game a notch in the last five River King games.

"They tried to shut him down, but when they did that it gave other players some room and an opportunity and we took advantage of that," said Robinson. "It allowed our defensemen to move the puck around and that's why we had so many assists tonight from our defense."

On Sunday, the Kings played host to the Tamworth Cyclones, who boast the worst record in the GMHL South Conference.

The Kings will break for Christmas and return to action on January 3rd on the road against the Nipissing Alouettes. The next home game for the Kings is at the SG Nesbitt Barn on Sunday, January 11 versus Ville Marie Dragons. Game time is 6 pm.



Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: I am happily married, but all my life I have yearned for a close and sisterly relationship with my mother and my sisters. We are very different people, but a kind and understanding female relative is what I have always wished for. They send me unsolicited advice, including articles about physical and mental health, diet pills and clippings on finances, etc., but we don't seem to be able to sustain good conversation, with listening or encouragement. I sometimes think people get so wrapped up in trying to "fix" others that they don't see the true beauty that lies within. I have expressed my feelings to them about wishing we could be closer, but was told that sisterly affection is a "myth." Unfortunately, I don't fit in with my husband's family, either. Family issues seem to be the recurring theme of my life. It's depressing. I work full-time, do charity work and have good friends outside my family, but I still long for a closer relationship with my family. Is there a way to let go of old dreams and wishes? With the holidays here, I have difficulty getting through this time without a bad case of the blues. — MISSING SOMETHING IN MINNESOTA

DEAR MISSING SOMETHING: Forgive me if my response has a "bah, humbug" tone, but has it ever occurred to you that your mother and sisters may be incapable of being the kind of idealized family that you would like to have? If they didn't care about you, they wouldn't send you unsolicited advice, articles on physical and mental health, diet pills and financial planning. They may think what they're doing is a demonstration of their love and concern for you. The surest way I know to "let go of the old dreams and wishes" is to concentrate on the here and now and the blessings you have in your life — a solid marriage, a good job, caring friends and the ability to help those less fortunate. Christmas and New Year's can be a taxing time for those who are emotionally vulnerable. Because these holiday blues happen every year, some sessions with a licensed mental health professional could help you break that cycle.

DEAR ABBY: When I come home and my girlfriend is there, I greet her with a cheerful "hello" or "good morning." Her usual response is somewhere between a grunt and a sniff. If I am home first and she walks in, she will immediately launch into a conversation without giving me a greeting. I have tried explaining to her that her behavior makes me feel like she isn't happy to see me. But when I tell her it hurts my feelings, she accuses me of trying to "control her." She always gives her co-workers and friends a nice, friendly greeting when she sees them. Am I being too sensitive? I feel I deserve a similar acknowledgment if I take the time to be cordial. — SHORTCHANGED IN GEORGIA

DEAR SHORTCHANGED: You're not being overly sensitive, and asking to be treated with warmth and courtesy isn't being controlling. Your girlfriend appears to take you and your affection for granted. If there are other problems in your relationship, perhaps it's time to step back, take a cool and rational look at how you are being treated in other areas, and decide whether it is in your best interest to continue it.

ADVERTISERS

TOTAL MARKET COVERAGE

457-5001

How to reach a large audience

without costing a fortune

and as well, we are

Locally owned & operated

FOR LESS

SEASONS

GREETINGS

INSULSAVE INSULATION

- ATTICS - CATHEDRAL CEILINGS
REDUCE ENERGY COSTS BY 30-50%
WALL & FLOOR JOIST
CUT AIR FILTRATION BY 60%
PROFINK Wall Insulation

**GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE
FOR INSTALLATION UPGRADES**
Call for details.

OWENS CORNING CERTIFIED INSTALLER PAUL DAIGLE JR.
705-754-3550 Haliburton 705-455-7330

YOU'LL FIND IT AT...

12170 Hwy 35
Minden

OF MINDEN

AUTO PARTS 286-1011

I	E	A	L	A	L	A	N	T	A	I	N	G	E	A	N	G	E	L	A		
A	L	S	O	G	O	U	T	S	I	R	E	N	O	R	M	A	N				
F	A	T	H	E	R	S	D	A	Y	S	C	A	R	E	S	M	E	I	M		
				A	G	E				V	E	E			S	W	E	E			
S	P	A		A	B	J	U	R	E	D		T	A	T	E		S	H	A	M	
W	A	X	E	D		O	T	I	S		S	E	V	E	R	E		A	M	O	
A	B	E	T		R	Y	A	N		C	A	N	O	E		G	E	L	I	D	
P	A	L	A	C	E					M	A	C	A	W		I	O	D	I	N	E
				A	P	T		S	A	M		B	A	R	D		A	T	O	M	
	A	F	R	A	I	D		T	H	E	Y	L	L	G	E	T	M	E			
S	A	R	A		I	N	R	E		L	E	E		T	A	R					
O	R	A	T	O	R		A	A	R	O	N				L	Y	N	D	O	N	
L	I	B	E	L		A	G	L	E	T		A	L	M	S		O	R	L	Y	
A	S	I		D	E	P	O	T	S		A	L	O	E		C	R	A	G	S	
R	E	A	D		M	I	N	H		A	L	A	B	A	M	A		M	A	E	
				A	M	O	S			E	K	E			A	L	E				
S	O	M	E	T	H	I	N	G	I	C	A	N	T	A	F	F	O	R	D		
P	I	R	A	T	E		M	O	R	T		S	U	E	Z		R	O	A	R	
S	T	A	G	E	D		A	S	E	A		I	D	L	E		E	Z	R	A	
T	U	N	E	R			N	E	T	S		F	E	L	L		M	E	E	T	

County Voice *Easy to Read* Classifieds

Deadline for Classifieds is every Monday at noon

Pets & Agriculture

K9CLIPPERS & KENNELS
2153 HARBURN ROAD.
Professional Grooming
Service & friendly, loving
home away from home
1-705-457-3614 Natasha
Counb. tfn

**ARE YOU A GOLDEN
RETRIEVER BELIEVER?**
Golden Rescue, The
Canadian Golden Retriever
Adoption Service Inc.
URGENTLY needs foster
homes, vet services,
"forever" homes, donations,
members, fundraisers/
volunteers. Help us care
for this magnificent breed.
Anything you can do would
be greatly appreciated. For
information please contact
us at 1-866-712-8444 or visit
www.golden-rescue.net. tfn

Careers

**CAREER IN REAL
ESTATE.** Contact Kate
Archer, Training Director at
(705) 457-2220 or careers@
bowesandcocks.com Bowes
& Cocks Limited, Brokerage.
Tfn

For Rent

**FOR RENT - In town, 1
Bedroom apartment, newly
finished, furnished, heat
& I hydro included. \$600 a
month. 1st and last, required,
no smoking, no pets. Call
457-2734 januray a 09**

For Sale

**FOR SALE - 2005 TOYOTA
TACOMA - Access cab.
Silver, 98,292 km. Off road
package, 6 speed manual,
4 door, in dash 6 disc CD
changer, 400 watt (115 V)
cargo bed power outlet,
loaded. Call 489 - 1756
december e 08**

**FOR SALE - 47"
SNOWBOARD, BINDINGS
AND BOOTS (5 1/2) - \$150.
Call today at (705) 448-2080
december d 08**

**FORSALE--SNOWBOARD
BOOTS AND BINDINGS -
Burton Tribute Boots, size
7 Burton Freestyle Bindings
Excellent Condition, \$300
Value. Phone Stephen at 457-
5001 with an offer. december
d 08**

**FOR SALE - Automotive,
Snowmobile, ATV, Marine
Parts & Accessories.
Complete line of Hunting,
Archery, Fishing tackle,
Paintball, Soft Air Guns
& Accessories, and Live
Bait & Licensing. The Wild
Outdoors formerly CC
Enterprises. 163 Highland
Street, Haliburton (705)
457- 5334 Open 7 days a
week. june 09**

For Sale

**FOR SALE - NEW
COMPLETE SEPTIC
SYSTEMS.** 30 Years of
experience in Minden and
Haliburton area. We take
care of all paperwork and
permits. Fully licenced,
health unit inspected. Call
for a free estimate, Brent
Coltman Trucking and
Escavating at 705-286-3952
or 1-800-357-8711
tfn

**FOR SALE - 2005 4X4
JIMMY ZR2 PKG. -
91,000km, excellent
condition. Asking \$9999.00
Call (705) 448-2080 january
a 08**

**HOUSE FOR SALE -
HALIBURTON AREA**
2 bedroom house in
Haliburton. Drilled well,
walk to stores, overlooks
lake. \$85,000 o.b.o. Call
(705) 488-2382 december d
08

Wanted

**ARTICLES WANTED - Old
or antique used furniture,
one piece or whole estates
bought plus clean-up of
everything also cars, trucks,
boats trailers if the price is
right I will make you a deal
on anything call Richard in
Tory Hill at 448-3920. Clean
up of scrap cars or metal as
well. tfn**

Services

**SNOWPLOWING and
Roof Shoveling around
Minden Area. Call for
more information 286-6739
januray b 09**

**SERVICES - ROOF
SHOVELLING
AVAILABLE. SOFFIT,
FASCIA, VINYL
SIDING, WINDOWS,
EAVESTROGH AND
ROOFING. Reasonable
Rates. Call Greg Carpenter
455-2088 or 286-2059
januray b 09**

CELEBRATE RECOVERY,
A Christ-centered recovery
group for all of life's hurts,
habits, and hang-ups. A time
of worship, teaching, Small
Groups, and community.
Meet others journeying this
same road as you, & take
steps towards freedom from
the addictive, compulsive and
dysfunctional behaviours
that hold your life back.
Every Monday Night 7 -
10 PM at Lakeside Baptist
Church, 9 Park Street,
Haliburton. 457-2851 www.
celebraterecovery.com tfn

**FTA SATELLITE
SYSTEMS 1000's of
channels, no program fees,
all satellite system installs.
306-0023 (local call) tfn**

**ODD JOB JACK-YOUR
LOCAL HANDYMAN 448-
9965 For any and all odd
jobs. What can we do for
you? Email oddjobjack@
yahoo.ca tfn**

Events

**WEST GUILFORD REC
CENTRE NEW YEARS
EVE DANCE**
December 31, 2008
8:30 pm - 1:30 am
Midnight Buffet, Live band
"Township Tradition"
\$20 pp
For advanced tickets call
754-2168

Help Wanted

Senior Accountant

Are you an experienced accountant with excellent attention to detail? Do you work well within a team, learning from your teammates and sharing your knowledge? Do you take pride in getting things done right, but are not afraid to look beyond the routines to make things better? Are you currently working towards a professional accounting designation and have at least three years accounting experience? Do you love what you do and know how to have fun? Send your resume to:

Dorothy Huhtalo,
Patient News Publishing Ltd.
P. O. Box 822,
Haliburton, ON
K0M 1S0

Fax (705) 457-5273 dhuhtalo@patientnews.com
Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.



CONTRACT POSITIONS WITH SIRCH

SIRCH Community Services & Consulting is looking for several positive, confident and motivated individuals, with great communications skills, who can fit into our team for short or long periods of time.

Training Coordinator (could be a job-share position) to develop, market and coordinate national training, and other professional development, both face-to-face and online.

Trainers (retired teachers, ECEs or other professionals) with experience/interest in the preschool/kindergarten environment to provide occasional training and other professional development for adults, face-to-face and/or online.

Researcher/writer to gather and analyze data, organize and write reports, briefs, and marketing materials.

For more information contact Gena Robertson at 457-1742 x23 or email gena_robertson@sirch.on.ca.

SIRCH
So It Really Can Happen
Community Services & Consulting

Events

LIFT "New Location"
Lakeside Baptist Church
(parking in rear)
Thursday Januray 8, 2009
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Feature: Cindy Trapp,
Financial Consultant with
Investors Group Financial
Services Inc.
"Strategie\$ to Overcome
Empty Pockets"
Music: Lindsay Lester
Special Speaker: Cindy
Trapp
All Ladies Welcome! For
more information call 457-
3155 december e 08

Don't Get The Voice Now?...

**GET THE COUNTY VOICE
ALL YEAR LONG!!**

Delivered To
Your Home!



**Don't
Miss Any News!!**

ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

just \$55 inside Ontario

just \$65 outside Ontario

If you are already receiving the Voice in the mail -
you do NOT need a subscription. Newspapers
will continue to be mailed free to your home!

Cottagers & Snowbirds
If you have a subscription
mailed to you during the
off season to your home
away from Haliburton County
- we will give you
a complementary issue
while you are back here at the
cottage (your summer home)!

County **Voice**.ca

Haliburton County's Weekly Newspaper

457-5001

St. George's Anglican's Concert and Potluck



St George's Anglican held their Annual Christmas Concert and Potluck Supper on Dec 14th. Dylan Thomas's A Child's Christmas in Wales formed a backdrop for another Canadian adaptation of the popular Thomas classic, a reading called "A Child's Christmas in Scarborough." The first lines of the short story - "I sometimes hear a moment before sleep, that I

can never remember whether it snowed for six days and six nights when I was twelve or whether it snowed for twelve days and twelve nights when I was six ... It was snowing. It was always snowing at Christmas. December, in my memory, is white as Lapland, though there were no reindeers" - hearkened Haliburton.

Snow covered roads and frigid temperatures made getting to St George's a struggle, but ensconced inside, the congregation was able to revel in the music, the songs and the carolling. The potluck supper after in the Church Hall was a lively success. ■



Terrance Gavan
Staff Reporter



MERRY CHRISTMAS!



From Charlie, Ethel & the Team at
Minden Subaru
286-6126

Happy
Holidays!



Brett Irvine



Joanne Irvine



Stephen Patrick



Mark Arick



Terrance Gavan



Lyn Winans



George Farrell



Charlene English



Carrie Feir



Liz Danielson



Shawn Welsh



Buffy Wilson

Season's Greetings
Thank You

to all our advertisers,
readers, writers, family and friends
for all your support in 2008.

County **Voice** .ca

Haliburton County's Weekly Newspaper

Century 21®

Granite Realty Group Inc. Real Estate Brokerage

FOUR OFFICES SERVICING HALIBURTON COUNTY

Haliburton 457-2128 Kennisis 754-2100

Minden 286-2138 Carnarvon 489-9968

The Local Experts

21 Acres \$249,900



Large 3 BR family home, 1ge LR, 2 stone FP and w/o basement. Features 4 stall horse barn, paddock & large workshop & nice pond.

Tom Wilkinson 286-2138

5 Lake Chain \$569,000



Fully winterized, 3 bedrooms, open concept, woodstove, 2 storey garage on beautiful Soyers Lake!

Derrell and Kim Stamp 457-2128

Minden Bungalow \$274,900



A whole new look in this redesigned 3 BR home with his/her garage, ensuite bath, newer kitchen, circular drive on a cul de sac, walking distance to town.

Janice Brookes 457-2128

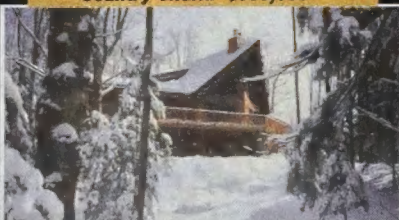
Family Starter Cottage \$259,000



4 BR cottage on flat lot offers sandy beach at front deck. Nicely treed lot, clean, quiet smaller lake. Year round road allows for skiing and snowmobiling possibilities.

Lee Gauthier 489-9968

Country Charm \$399,000



Lindal cedar 3 Br, 3 bath home. Wooded setting & stream. Excellent location. Turn Key. Vaulted ceilings, skylights, open concept, Jennair appl., fam rm, Dbl Garage

John Hincks 286-2138

Kashagawigamog Access \$199,900



Cute 2 BR home + 3 BR guest bunkie with dock on Lk Kashagawigamog, just mins from Haliburton on quiet crescent off Cty Rd 21.

Tom Wilkinson 286-2138

Kashagawigamog \$550,000



Resort or Family Compound located on Haliburton's most popular 5 lake chain. Sunset views, 5 cabins plus residence, level lot, easy year round access.

Anne Moulton 286-2138

Ski Chalet \$449,000



Stunning new 3 BR, 3 Bath chalet at Sir Sam's Ski Hill. Full finished bsmt & w/o. Top end finishings. Lge wrap around decks on 2 levels. Spectacular view of Eagle Lake.

Andrew Hodgson - 286-2128

Lochlin Area Home \$250,000



Air conditioned 3 BR with main floor master, 2 baths, rec room on 3+ acre lot. Flat lot, beautifully treed, attached garage, small pond. 10 min to town.

Dagmar Boettcher- 286-2138

Eagle Lake Village Home \$109,900



Cute & Cozy 2 BR. Enjoy the beautiful view of the Gull River from the sunroom, close to Sir Sam's & Beach. Walking distance to general store.

Wilf VanLieshout - 457-2128

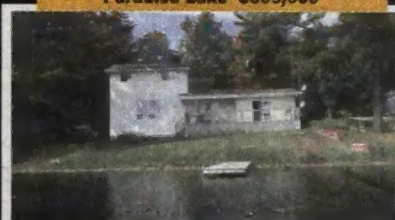
Beech River \$359,000



3 BR Waterfront home, private setting with that "cottage" feel. Sandy shoreline, deep water off dock with excellent access to Beech & Boshkung Lakes.

Tom Ecclestone 286-2128

Paradise Lake \$309,000



3 bedroom, 2 bath home, perfect for families or retirement, level lot, south exp, produces great rental income for investment purposes.

Greg Stamp 457-2128

Year Round Fun \$539,000



This beautiful lakefront home or cottage has 4 bedrooms, 2 stone fireplaces and attached garage. Just minutes to Sir Sam's Ski Hill!

Derrell and Kim Stamp 457-2128

Minden Lake \$364,900



3 BR home/cottage with 167' of waterfront on picturesque Minden Lake. Quiet neighbourhood, great swimming, fishing & near White Water Reserve.

Paul Szpik - 457-2128

Miskwabi Lake \$339,900



Bright, modern cottage/home w/ spectacular big lake view, deep, clean shoreline. Open-concept, full walkout bsmt, furnace, & heated line. Yr rnd mun. road.

Susanne James & Andy Mosher 457-2128

In Town Location \$209,900



Cute 3 BR home with hardwood floors & Main Floor laundry. Beautiful landscaped corner lot. Walk to downtown Haliburton!

Mark Dennys 457-2128

Cute as a Button \$245,000



Vintage 3 BR cottage, 720 sq ft, airtight woodstove on the perfect flat lot w/ flat rock and sand beach shoreline on a municipal road located in a quiet dead end bay.

Lee Gauthier 489-9968

Private Setting \$199,900



3+ BR & 2+ bath bungalow with finished rec. room & walkout. Lots of decking & screened in sun room, on 2+ acres. Close to Sir Sams & swimming area.

Drew Bishop 457-2128

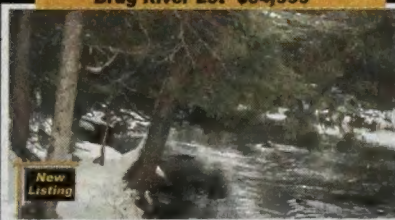
Chalet +5 Acres \$239,000



Privacy plus 3 bedrooms with separate living quarters. Enjoy the hot tub and pool. Clear lake and the town of Minden are close by.

Janice Brookes 457-2128

Drag River Lot \$84,999



Beautiful secluded 2.8 acre lot with over 240 ft frontage on the Drag River. Driveway in, building lot cleared, minutes to Minden or Haliburton.

Kristin Withey 286-2138

* Sales Representative ** Broker *** Broker of Record



Drew Bishop **
457-2128



Janice Brookes *
457-2128



Dagmar Boettcher *
286-2138



Mark Dennys *
457-2128



Tom Ecclestone *
286-2138



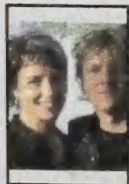
Lee Gauthier **
489-9968



John Hincks **
286-2138



Andrew Hodgson *
286-2138



Susanne James *
& Andy Mosher **
457-2128



Anne Moulton *
286-2138



Derrell Stamp ***
& Kim Stamp **
457-2128



Greg Stamp *
457-2128



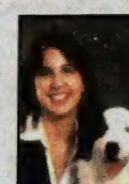
Paul Szpik *
457-2128



Wilfred
VanLieshout**
457-2128



Tom Wilkinson **
286-2138



Kristin Withey *
286-2138

website: www.century21granite.com email: info@century21granite.com

Each Office is Independently Owned & Operated. and Registered Trademarks of Century 21 Real Estate Corporations Used Under Licence.